Gokongwei buying PLDT; bidding war looms

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'Think. Don't Smoke' ad: Think again

ADVERTISEMENTS launched by the tobacco industry to limit teen smoking may actually make them want to smoke more, American researchers and anti-smoking activists said yesterday on the eve of "World No Tobacco Day."

The ads seem to appeal to the contrary nature of many teens and are

THINK/A6

CA orders arrest of GMA's adviser

CLIMACO: Wanted by the Commission on Appointments after she reviewed the Piatco contract.

Confirmation hearings of DOTC head 'obstructed'

By Rocky Nazareno

AFTER missing four consecutive hearings of the Commission on Appointments with an allegedly "lame excuse," a presidential adviser has been ordered arrested by the powerful bicameral commission.

Rep. Rafael Nantes, chair of the CA committee on transportation and communications, issued the order to arrest Gloria Tan Climaco the other day, for snubbing the controversial confirmation hearings of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

Nantes also ordered the arrest of businessman Alfonso Liongson, a consultant of the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (Piatco), who also failed to appear before the CA in the hearings of May 6, 15, 21 and 29.

Nantes said the continued absence of Climaco and Liongson "delayed, impeded and obstructed" Alvarez's confirmation hearings.

As presidential adviser on strategic projects, Climaco chaired the presidential committee that reviewed the Piatco contract to build the third terminal of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, which critics say is grossly disadvantageous to the government.

Liongson is a consultant who allegedly receives $200,000 a month, Naia 3 opposers claim, as a dummy for government officials.

The unprecedented arrest orders were based on the motion of Senators Edgardo Angara and Robert Barbers, who were piqued at the continued absence of Climaco and Liongson.

"We merely want to uphold the integrity of the CA. Unless we do this, the CA will be incapable of enforcing the appearance of witnesses," Angara said.

CA member Rep. Raul del Mar noted that Climaco and Liongson gave "lame excuses" when they did not attend the May hearings—an indication, he said, that "they do not intend to come at all."

Climaco had earlier excused herself from the hearings, saying she was still attending to her

CA/A20

Abu chieftain, Chavit say nurse will be freed soon

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The self-styled spokesperson of the Abu Sayyaf yesterday said his group would soon release its Filipino hostage, nurse Ediborah Yap.

"I hope nobody will say she was rescued when the time comes," Abu Sabaya told dxRZ Radyo Agong. He said the Abu Sayyaf would release Yap after they had talked with Luis "Chavit" Singson, former governor of Ilocos Sur.

Sabaya made no mention of the other two hostages, American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham.

He said his group was now looking for a person who could directly talk with Singson regarding the conditions that the Abu Sayyaf had set for Yap's release.

A scholarship package for Yap's four children and a livelihood program for her family are supposedly among these conditions.

"This is our way of thanking her for the help she extended to our men who were wounded," said Sabaya, one of five Abu Sayyaf leaders for whose capture the US government has put up reward money amounting to $5 million.

"She has become a part of us because she had no choice," the Associated Press quoted Sabaya as saying.

In Vigan City, Singson confirmed that Yap's release could come "anytime now."

He told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that Sabaya contacted him in April to help in the release of the remaining hostages of the Abu Sayyaf. But he declined to reveal details of the conversation.

All Singson would say was that no ransom would be involved in Yap's release, and that he had promised to help finance

ABU/A7

MISS UNIVERSE
Oxana Federova of Russia, 24, who blushes when she says the wrong things, wins the 2002 Miss Universe pageant on Wednesday night in Puerto Rico. The 5-foot-11 university lecturer with black hair and green eyes has a 38-year-old boyfriend named Vladimir. She didn't say what would become of him. REUTERS

Progay hits 'ungrateful macho Church leadership'

By Armand N. Nocum

FOR calling homosexuality an "abnormal condition," a Catholic bishop has earned the ire of a militant gay organization.

The Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines (Progay) said Sorsogon Bishop Jesus Varela's thinking was reflective of the "patriarchal hierarchy of the Church."

Varela said on Wednesday that "homosexuality as an orientation is not sinful. It is the practice of homosexuality that the Church condemns."

"It does not dignify the humanity of gay priests by telling them they can remain in the priesthood as long as the Vatican considers them sick while turning a blind eye to the heterosexual priests who (have) sex with women and girls but are not considered abnormal," Progay president Oscar Atadero said of Varela's statement.

Atadero reminded Varela that millions of gays and lesbians had suffered hundreds of years of Church oppression because of what he said was the Church's wrong interpretation of the Scriptures.

PROGAY/A7

Bandits say $5-M reward boosts their egos

ONE of the five targets reacted with sarcasm and Malacañang wistfully noted that no representative of the Philippine government was present when the US Embassy announced Wednesday its $5-million reward offer for the capture of Abu Sayyaf leaders.

"That's a nice offer. It shows that we are important not only in Islam but to its enemies as well," Abu Sabaya, spokesperson of the bandit group, quipped yesterday over Radio Mindanao Network in Zamboanga City. He also announced that his group would soon release hostage Ediborah Yap.

Also over RMN News, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said he was certain that the reward was "coordinated with our law enforcement agencies beforehand."

"But it would have been better if they invited a representative of at least our law enforcement agencies," Afable said, pointing out that US authorities could not enforce their reward offer by themselves and would have to act in coordination with local police and law enforcement agencies.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the reward offer was "some kind of a confession that the (Balikatan) military exercise is a failure."

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said that the Department of Foreign Affairs, which he concurrently heads, was consulted only a day before the reward offer was announced, and that he did not have time to study the matter.

"They said this is intended for interna-

BANDITS/A20

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Presiding Judge
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 81
AFF ROOM

JUDGE Ma. Theresa Yadao, who will determine the fate of the Kuratong Baleleng cases the government revived against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 37 other accused, lives at home without a maid but she has 10 pet dogs. DENNIS SABANGAN

Kuratong judge a widow with no fear in her heart

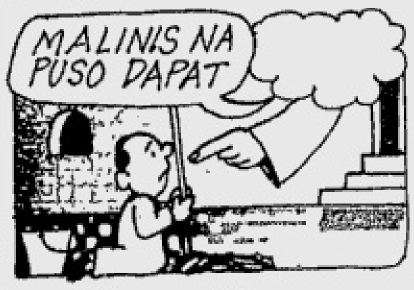
By Volt Contreras

"I JUST ride a tricycle going to market or to Church. I don't know how to drive and I don't have a maid at the house—but I have 10 pet dogs." So says Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao, who may now need all of her dogs to keep the world at bay, after the Supreme Court's decision on the Kuratong Baleleng case thrust her into the limelight.

"I admit this is another high-profile case . . . but it should not prejudice the other cases. Special attention should not be given to it for there are many other cases (in my sala) clamoring for attention," Yadao told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"I'm not afraid of facing any case, whether or not it involves high-ranking gov-

KURATONG/A20



Cleanliness linked to godliness

PARIS—Devout Roman Catholics appear to be vulnerable to obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), a maniacal drive for hygiene that can cripple their everyday lives, a study says.

Sufferers from OCD are often convinced that their surroundings are

CLEANLINESS/A7

Second **FRONT PAGE**

PWEDE NANG BAWIIN!

Gloria eyes PAL takeover

MACAPAGAL

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she is considering letting the government take back control of Philippine Airlines from tycoon Lucio Tan, as one of the measures to boost the country's tourism industry.

The President raised the idea as "food for thought" before the business community when she digressed briefly from her prepared speech at the "Asean Free Trade Area and Beyond" symposium held at the Peninsula Hotel in Makati City.

Ms Macapagal said she had ordered Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to look into how PAL could be turned into "a tool of government policy and not just another business enterprise that the government is committed to giving a good investment and operating climate to."

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said in his regular press briefing that the President's statement should not be taken as a hostile move against Tan.

"I don't think that was in the mind of the President," Afable said.

PAL was privatized in March 1992. PR Holdings, a consortium comprised of Tan and Antonio Cojuangco, bought 67 percent of its shares for P9.6 billion.

In her speech, Ms Macapagal said the idea of the government taking back PAL was inspired by the successful tourism industries in Thailand and Malaysia, both of which have "very liberalized air policies."

"One way they were able to do this was by controlling the national airline," the President said. "Therefore, in the early stages they could afford to let the national airline be a loss leader, to open it up to competition."

"Now we can't do that here if the national airline is owned by the private sector, and so I have been exploring the idea of doing a PNB on Philippine Airlines," Ms Macapagal said.

The President was referring to the Philippine National Bank which, like PAL, was taken over by Tan when it was privatized.

Due to unsettled obligations to the government, Tan had to return some of his PNB shares to the government, which had infused funds under a bank rehabilitation program.

At present, Tan owns 53.79 percent of the airline while the government controls only 4.26 percent.

A huge block of shares representing 35.15 percent is held by three companies, namely, Top Wells Enterprises of Hong Kong, Maxell Holdings and Richmark Holdings.

PAL employees own 2.61 percent of the airline while the remaining 4.19 percent of shares are in the hands of other investors.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said it was appropriate to point out the "government had taken over the beleaguered flag carrier before but had to give it up."

Sen. Joker Arroyo also rejected the President's proposal, saying that "PAL was once upon a time owned by the government" and any plans to take it over now would be like "jumping from the frying pan into the fire."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan also disagreed with the Palace proposal and noted that "given the government track record of running PAL in the past, retaking control of the airline would only result in more dismal operations." ***With Rocky Nazareno***

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Drilon 'pork' to build schools at half price

By Rocky Nazareno

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday took the first step toward eliminating corruption associated with pork barrel funds, when he assigned to a private organization the task of implementing his P100-million school building projects at half the usual price.

In signing ceremonies at the Senate, Drilon forged a memorandum of agreement with the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCI), giving P100 million of his public works entitlement toward the construction of 285 two-classroom school buildings.

Under the agreement, the job of constructing the schools will be transferred from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to the FFCCCII, which is recognized by the Commission on Audit.

As it is, Drilon said, a two-classroom building built by the DPWH through private contractors costs P700,000.

The FFCCCII could build a similar building for half the price, Drilon said.

He recalled how he was able to obtain the donation of a school building from the FFCCCIII for the hometown of his wife, Mila, in Camarines Sur.

As a counterpart donation, he said he used his pork barrel to have a DPWH-constructed two-classroom school built in the same town.

When the two buildings were finished, he asked an FFCCCII official how much their building had cost them.

"I was surprised to find out the FFCCCII's building cost only P350,000, while the DPWH school building had cost P700,000. I immediately thought there must be something wrong with what I'd been doing for the last five years," Drilon said.

Per square meter, Drilon said, the DPWH school building cost P6,250, while the FFCCCII's school cost only P3,571.

Drilon said he has told President Macapagal-Arroyo of his plan to let the FFCCCII build schools using his pork barrel, given the huge disparity between the DPWH and FFCCCII's building costs.

Win-win: Alvarez critic gets new post

By Carlito Pablo

WAS IT a rebuff of Environment Secretary Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez? Or was this the touted win-win solution to get his stalled confirmation approved at the Commission on Appointments?

Yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Peter Anthony Abaya, one of Alvarez's staunchest critics, as assistant secretary in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

In a letter to Abaya dated May 2, Ms Macapagal assigned him, however, to the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Official Development Assistance Absorption in Malacañang.

Copies of the appointment were furnished Alvarez and Secretary Marita Jimenez, presidential adviser on ODA Absorption.

Abaya had been appointed assistant secretary at the DENR in September by the President but the appointment was blocked by Alvarez who filed administrative charges against Abaya.

Alvarez had accused Abaya of issuing clearances to supposedly unqualified firms for the importation of ozone-depleting substances.

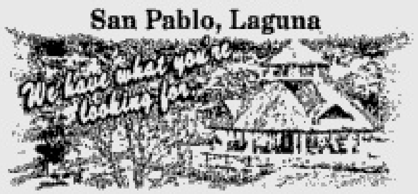
Abaya, a son of Rep. Plaridel Abaya (Liberal Party, Cavite), denied the charges. He then became one of Alvarez's strongest critics before the CA.

LP president Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad (Batanes) said Abaya's new appointment "could be the compromise that would ease the pressure on Sonny."

Abad, however, could not be certain if the move was enough to swing CA votes to Alvarez's side.

"I'm not sure what the next move of the CA will be," Abad said, admitting that a number of congressmen, particularly Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, had raised other concerns about Alvarez.

Pichay last week questioned Alvarez's approval of industrial forest management agreements (Ifmas) with foreign investors who were supposedly undercapitalized.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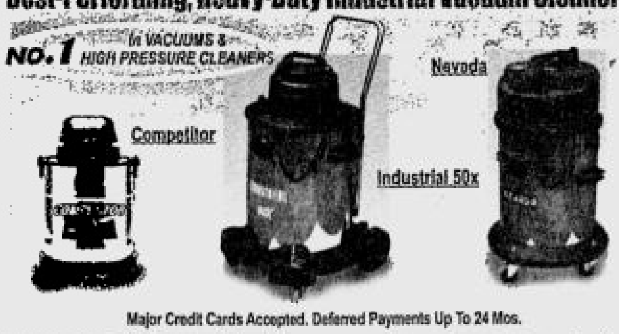
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Iloilo solon at it again

By Juliet L. Javellana

AFTER being expelled from the floor Wednesday, Iloilo Rep. Augusto "Boboy" Syjuco Jr. yesterday returned with a vengeance.

He raised his fist in triumph as the session was adjourned when he questioned the lack of quorum.

Syjuco was expelled from the floor Wednesday night for un-parliamentary behavior when he called his colleagues "jologs," teen speak for "baduy" or out of fashion, and accused the Speaker of railroading sensitive measures.

He was similarly expelled last February when he questioned the approval of the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle act.

Minutes after he arrived at the floor yesterday, Syjuco rose on a point of order and began talking about his expulsion the Wednesday night.

Majority leader Neptali Gonzales III cut him off and asked what his point of order was. Syjuco said the session could not go on without a quorum.

Gonzales suspended the session and the secretariat counted those present. Syjuco did his own count.

Gonzales was forced to adjourn the session.

Before he arrived, Leyte Rep. Ted Failon asked on the floor if Syjuco would be allowed to enter the session hall.

The expulsion was effective only on the day it was ordered.

Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin said Syjuco would be investigated by the House ethics committee.

Salapuddin said the committee could recommend Syjuco's suspension or expulsion as a member of the House if it is proven that he violated the rules of parliamentary conduct and decorum.

Senate OKs death for drug trafficking

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SENATE yesterday ratified a bicameral conference committee report re-imposing the death penalty for drug possession and trafficking.

In his sponsorship speech, Sen. Roberto Barbers, chair of the committee on public order and illegal drugs, said the joint report was a product of five lengthy and forceful discussions on the differing versions in the House and Senate of the proposed Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

The bicameral report will be submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo for signing into law.

"This (bill) shall serve as a renewed start to win the war against drugs," Barbers said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, a former human rights lawyer, voted against the bicameral report because of its death penalty provision.

Sen. Ralph Recto, invoking the same reason, abstained.

The bicameral report included the drug "Ecstasy" on the list of prohibited drugs.

It defined drug trafficking as "the importation, sale, trading, administration, dispensation, delivery, distribution and transportation of dangerous drugs and/or controlled precursors and essential chemicals."

On possession, the committee agreed that 10 grams of any dangerous drug, other than methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) and marijuana, will be penalized with life imprisonment or death.

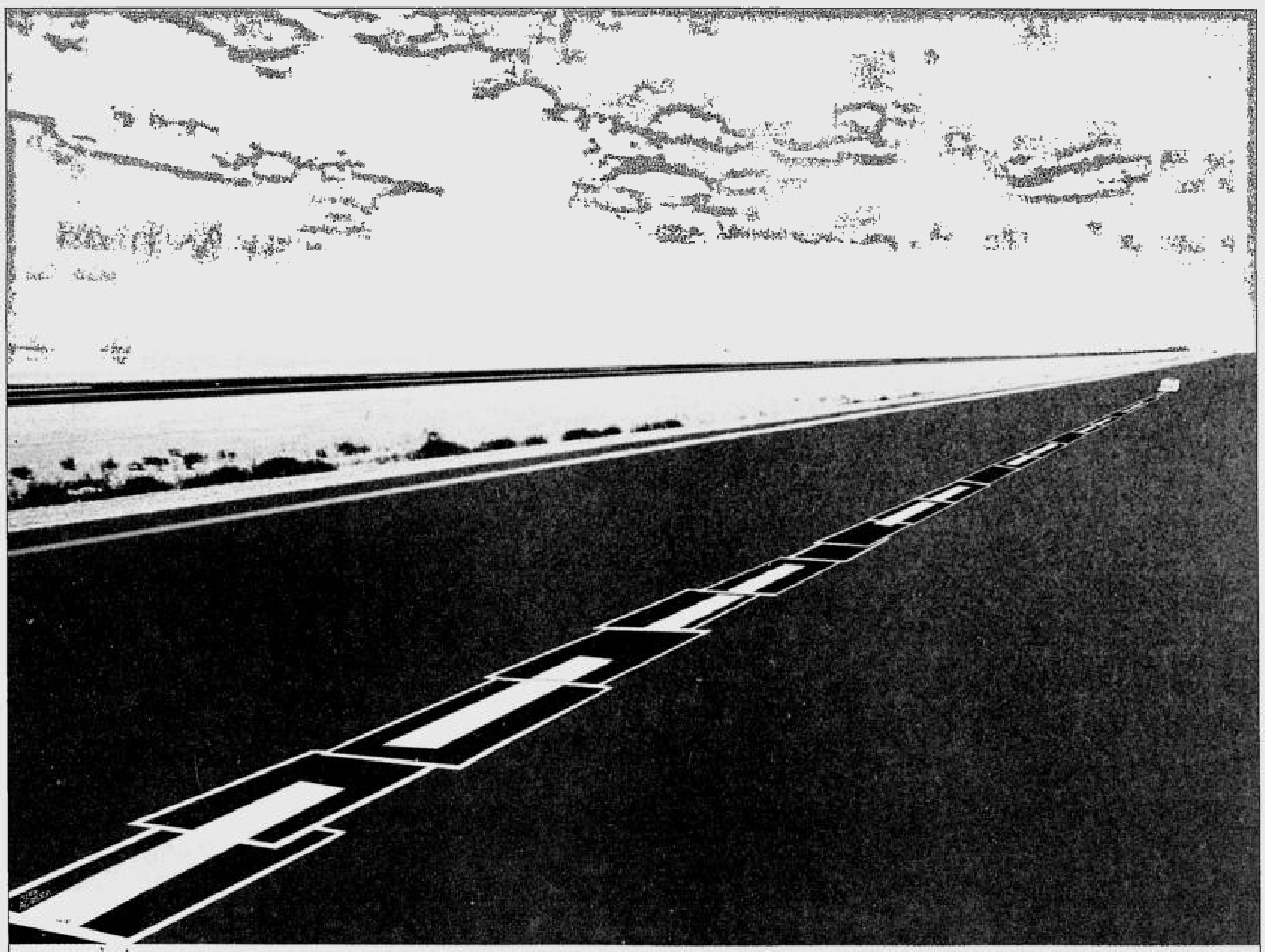
It agreed to adopt 50 grams or more of shabu as the threshold for possession to be punished by life imprisonment or death.

On the other hand, 10 to 49 grams of shabu shall be penalized with life imprisonment.

The committee also adopted two graduated penalties wherein possession of five grams or more but less than 10 grams of dangerous drugs, excluding marijuana, will be meted out 20 years' imprisonment to life.

The possession of less than five grams of any illegal substance will be punishable by 12 to 20 years imprisonment.

In the case of marijuana, the committee adopted the Senate version of the bill which provided that possession of at least 500 grams of marijuana will be punishable with life imprisonment or death.



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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 0597, Series of 2002.

Tancangco fights back on 2 fronts

THREATENED with impeachment, Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco is fighting back on two fronts.

Yesterday, she and three other allied commissioners asked the resident auditor of the Commission on Elections to investigate the foreign trips of Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, which they said were not authorized by the Comelec en banc.

On the second front, she confirmed the launching of a campaign to gather one million signatures supporting her call for a "full and public discussion of issues" to give her a chance to defend herself against the accusations by the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

Tancangco named Muntinlupa Rep. Raffy Biazon, Taguig Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano, and party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva as her supporters in the House of Representatives, where impeachment proceedings against her are expected to be initiated next week.

The impeachment complaint spearheaded by Rep. Monico Fuentebella is said to have g complaint straight to the Senate for trial.

Villanueva co-authored with Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama a resolution "expressing support and confidence" in Tancangco.

The costs were shouldered by "somebody who wanted to help," said Tancangco.

Tancangco is going on the offensive at the home front, the Comelec, where she and three other commissioners have sought an investigation of the recent foreign trips of Benipayo, who heads the rival faction at the Comelec.

The travels were made in February to Hong Kong and Japan, and from March until April to Italy and the US to accompany a fact-finding mission by Congress for the pending Absentee Voting bill for overseas Filipinos.

With a report from Blanche Rivera

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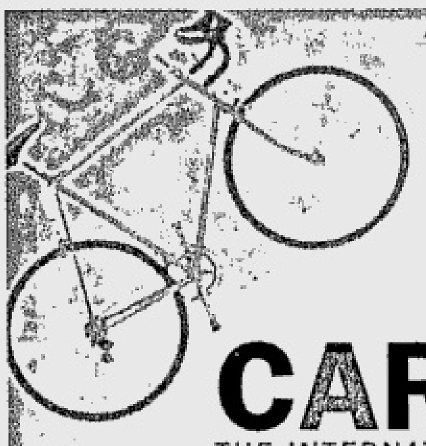

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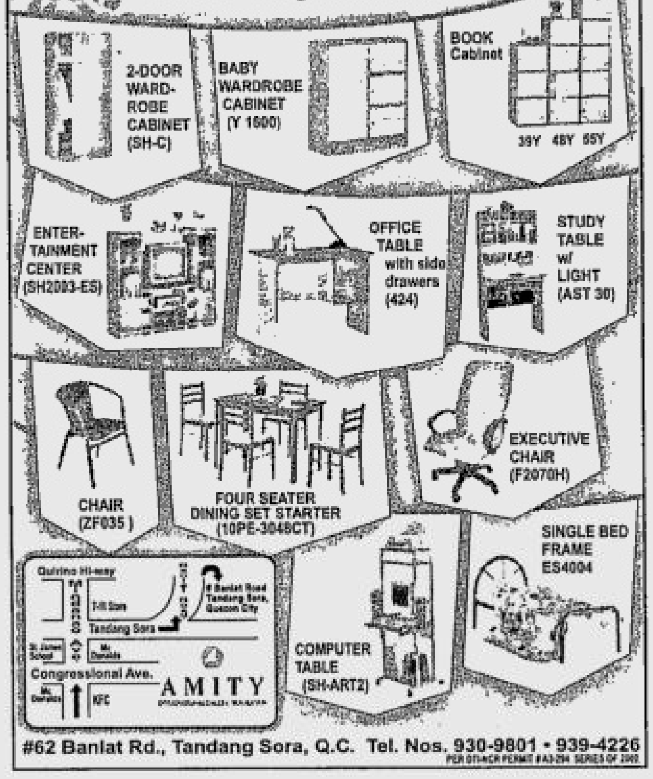
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Making The Grade Even With Asthma

Bernie could hardly wait for school to start. Just thinking about the stuff in store for him this year is enough to make his mouth water.

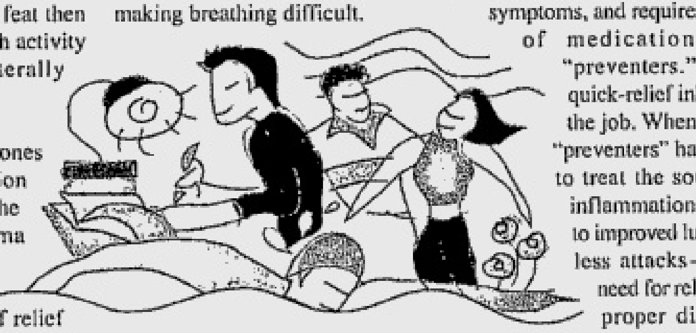
For starters, he is a varsity player and has already pictured himself winning the men's singles in swimming. He is also priming himself for the College Guild Editorship, a long-time dream of his. Not to mention an active dating life!

Finding school cool may not be a typical teen attitude. But Bernie is not your typical 16-year old. He is after all, an asthmatic! Amazing feat then how he can juggle that much activity into his life without literally dropping out.

Bernie is one of the lucky ones who got hold of information about new approaches for the control of asthma. Asthma control is defined as the absence of symptoms and acute attacks, no use of relief medication, no emergency room visits, normal activity level, including exercise, and almost normal lung function. At first, Bernie's parents cannot believe that these are all possible with asthma.

To be fair, his asthmatic beginnings were scenes straight out of a teen horror flick. There were the late night screams for help, gasping for breath, his chest tightening. Diagnosed with asthma at 4, his illness increased severity during his grade school days. It was difficult then. Asthma became synonymous with Bernie's late night disturbances, wheezing, coughing and gasping for breath. And so long as their son has his quick-relief inhalers they thought he was okay. It also became "normal" for them to bring him to the hospital for emergencies when his inhalers were not enough.

What they didn't know was that they were only relieving the symptoms of Bernie's asthma, and not the main problem. The key was in understanding asthma as a chronic, inflammatory lung disease that causes recurrent breathing problems. During asthma attacks, the lining of the airway swells, muscles around the airways tighten and mucus clogs the tiny airways around the lung, making breathing difficult.



Asthmatics have airways that narrow more easily that non-asthmatics and are usually allergic to inhaled allergens such as dust mites, protein particles shed by cats and dogs and pollen, exercise, tobacco smoke, air pollution or chemical irritants. And when they come in contact with allergens, the symptoms of asthma are then produced e.g. wheezing, coughing, tightness of the chest and gasping for breath.

In Bernie's case, these symptoms took a heavy toll on his grade-school performance via frequent absences and sleepless nights. He couldn't even attend simple outdoor camping activities and his swimming classes!

When he started failing his grades, Bernie's parents decided to actively seek out information about his disease.

What they discovered was that Bernie's more-than-frequent symptoms signaled the presence of inflammation. In-between asthma flare-ups, the airways remain chronically irritated and swollen. If this inflammation is not controlled, remodeling of the airways may occur. One could even get a perpetually narrowed passage.

This inflammation can take place even in the absence of overt signs and symptoms, and requires a different set of medication known as "preventers." Bernie's old quick-relief inhalers won't do the job. When used properly, "preventers" have been shown to treat the source, which is inflammation. This can lead to improved lung function and less attacks—reducing the need for relievers. With the proper diagnosis, right medication and effective management, asthma can be controlled and an asthmatic can lead a full, active life. Bernie discovered this with the help of his parents and his physician.

It's no wonder that he now leads a very active life and he is ready to pass college with flying colors!

If you or anyone you know would like to have the benefits of the proper control and management of asthma, or would like to have a FREE Severity Test, please call the AsthmaFree Counsel Line at 757-3693 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-10-830-1000 (Provincial toll-free).

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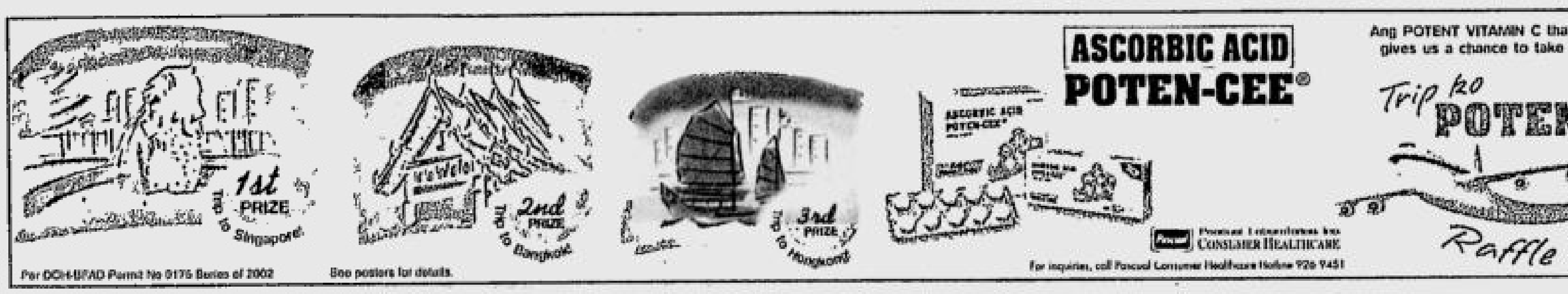
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'Think. Don't Smoke' ad: Think again

From page A1

"distinctly counter" to expert findings that directly telling teens not to smoke only encourages them, a report published in the American Journal of Public Health said.

The researchers and activists urged Philip Morris Co. Inc. to drop its "Think. Don't Smoke" campaign, and said their own approach seemed to work better to discourage adolescents from smoking.

"The Philip Morris campaign is only intensifying the tobacco epidemic the country finds itself in today, and we will continue to work with (the American Legacy Foundation) and others to address this important public health issue," Dr. Mohammad Akhter, executive director of the American Public Health Association, which publishes the journal, said in a statement.

In the Philippines, the Department of Health (DOH) is adopting a new tack to stop people from smoking, which kills about 13,800 Filipinos yearly.

The DOH and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) launched yesterday a program for a tobacco-free sports environment in the country.

"Teaming up with the PSC is the best way to counter the tobacco companies' strategy of using sports in advertising and promotions" of their products, Dayrit said in a statement.

He said the possibility of the program bringing about "smoke-free playing fields, locker rooms and stadiums is not far-fetched."

"With the agreement, athletes will be exposed to information on the effects of tobacco use on their performance," Dayrit said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says smoking increases the risk of injury among athletes because it reduces endurance, stamina and speed.

Philip Morris said it would consider the criticisms of the American Legacy Foundation.

"Philip Morris USA's Youth Smoking Prevention Department will review the study and supporting data and then seek a meeting with the American Legacy Foundation to learn more about their methodology and conclusions," Howard Willard, senior vice president for youth smoking prevention at the company, said in a statement.

"We are very interested in reviewing the American Legacy Foundation's study to see if any changes to our approach are warranted," Willard said.

He said the company would also "discuss ways we can work together toward our common goal of preventing youth smoking."

18,000 polled

The researchers, led by Matthew Farrelly at the research Triangle Institute in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, surveyed nearly 18,000 young men and women aged 12 to 24 in late 1999 and early 2000.

Philip Morris' "Think. Don't Smoke" campaign began in 1998, and the American Legacy Foundation's "Truths" campaign had been running for 10 months.

The "Truths" campaign seemed to be working, the researchers said. "Whereas exposure to the 'Truths' campaign positively changed youths' attitudes toward tobacco, the Philip Morris campaign had a counterproductive influence," they wrote.

"Philip Morris' 'Think. Don't Smoke' effort parades as a youth anti-smoking campaign, but it's really a wolf in sheep's clothing," Cheryl Healton, president and chief executive officer of Legacy, said. "Philip Morris should pull its 'Think. Don't Smoke' ads off the air."

William Corr, executive vice president of the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, added, "Instead of reducing youth smoking, they insidiously encourage kids to use tobacco and become addicted Philip Morris customers."

Legacy was founded with funds from the tobacco industry as part of the $246 billion 1998 agreement between states and tobacco companies they were suing.

Cyanide

Its "Truths" campaign included a television ad in which a man-sized rat crawls from the subway to make the point that rat poison and cigarettes both contain cyanide.

And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention credits the campaign, along with tighter laws restricting children's access to tobacco and higher taxes on cigarettes, with cutting teen smoking rates. It says less than 29 percent of high school students admitted they had smoked in the previous month in 2001, down from 34.8 percent in 1999.

The Federal Trade Commission reported this month that the six largest cigarette manufacturers spent $9.57 billion on advertising and promotions in 2000, a 16.2-percent increase over 1999.

In Manila, PSC Chair Eric Buhain said the DOH-PSC partnership for a "tobacco-free sports community is in consonance with our thrust for a healthy citizenry."

"As role models, the athletes have an obligation to lead healthy habits and lifestyle," Buhain said in the DOH statement.

A total of 13,829 Filipinos died in 1999 of ailments caused by smoking such as lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary, coronary artery, and cerebrovascular diseases, according to Dr. Cesar Recto, director of the Philippine Heart Association.

That year smoking-related diseases cost the country P46.4 billion in health expenses and productivity losses, according to Dr. Jessica Cueto de Leon, DOH health education and promotion adviser.

The amount was more than double the P21.4 billion in "tobacco revenues" that the government collected for the year. *Reports from Reuters and Armand N. Nocum*

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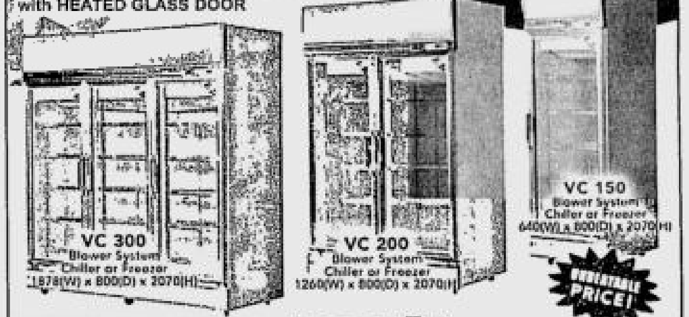

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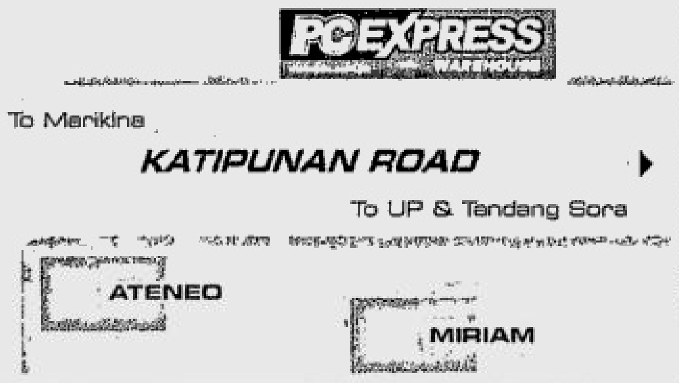

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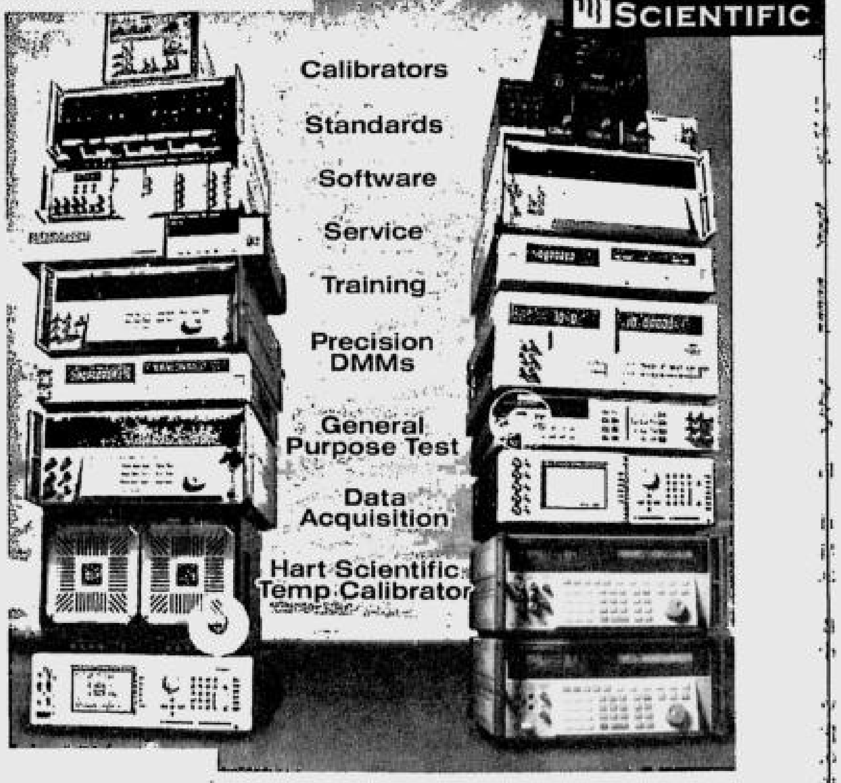

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Progay hits 'ungrateful macho church leadership'

From page A1

"Yet churches have benefited from the thankless contributions of the resources and work offered freely by the conscientious homosexuals who slaved to build, clean up, decorate, sing and play beautiful music and evangelize for the greater glory of an ungrateful macho (Church) leadership," Atadero said.

He challenged Church officials to "demonstrate true humanity not by banning gay priests from having sex, but by reforming the flawed sex-negative portions of their fundamental dogmas."

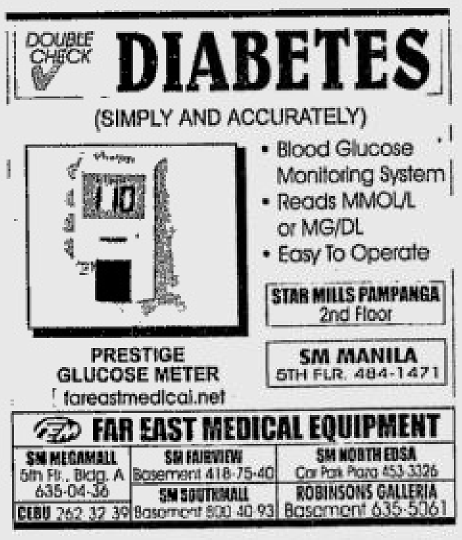
Varela issued the statement amid the sexual scandals involving priests ranging from pedophilia to sex with women.

Because of the scandals, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines is drafting a professional code of conduct for priests.

"Let this crisis in Church leadership give them a chance to introduce more reforms in the hierarchy, like ordaining women and lesbians as priests and allowing priest and nuns . . . to marry legally and have children," Atadero said.

Atadero urged the Church to allow gay priests a free reign to their passions.

Fr. Robert Reyes said there were homosexual Filipino priests because many gay persons are quite religious.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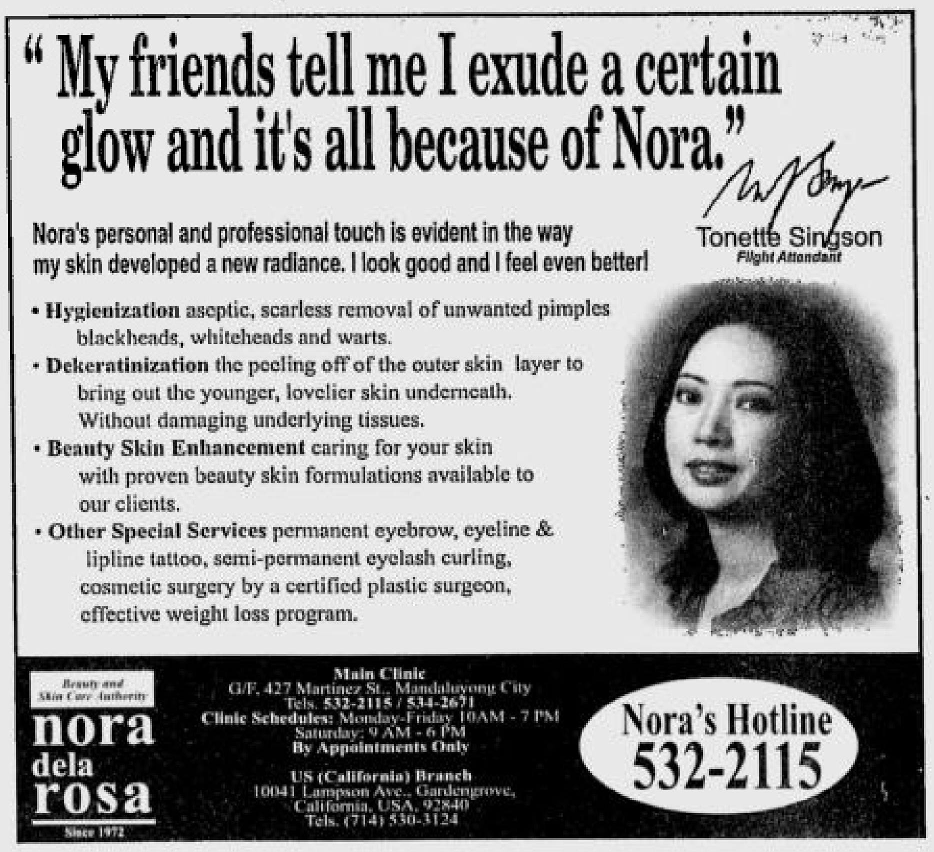
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Abu chieftain, Chavit say nurse will be freed soon

From page A1

her children's education.

"That's the only thing that I can guarantee for Ediborah Yap," said the prominent politician who had tried to negotiate the release of Abu Sayyaf hostages in the past, and whose "Juetengate" exposé signaled the beginning of the end of Joseph Estrada's presidency.

He also said he had been "trying to help so that the remaining hostages would be freed soon."

In a separate interview with dxRZ, Singson said he was willing to shoulder the education of Yap's children. But he said he would first have to study the Abu Sayyaf demand about a livelihood program for her family.

AP quoted Singson as urging the Abu Sayyaf over RMN Radio to also release the Burnhams.

"Thanks. This is a good start because people think they're bandits and terrorists. If they would free all of (the hostages) we can say that they're not that bad," he said.

1 year

Unless she is released before then, Yap will mark a year in captivity tomorrow. She was abducted along with several others from a hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, where the Abu Sayyaf and the group it seized from a Palawan resort five days earlier had holed up.

Yap is said to have been tending to the Burnhams, who are reportedly both ailing.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, is skeptical about Sabaya's announcement.

"Is he credible? I think we have to assess his statements," Carolina said.

He also said that even if the Abu Sayyaf continued to hold on to Yap, her rescue was only a matter of time because her location had already been pinpointed.

"We can get her any time," Carolina declared. ***Reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; AP***

Cleanliness linked to godliness

From page A1

riddled with germs. In extreme cases, they can spend up to eight hours a day cleaning and scrubbing to banish the thought.

At least 5 million Americans and a million Britons are believed to suffer from the syndrome.

Scientists led by Claudio Sica at Italy's University of Parma compared Catholic nuns and priests with committed lay Catholics and with others who had virtually no religious commitment, according to a report published in the latest issue of the weekly New Scientist.

Each person was asked to document mild OCD symptoms, such as intrusive mental images or worries.

The more devout Catholics reported more severe symptoms.

The study, published in full in a specialist journal, Behavior Research and Therapy, leaves open the question as to why there is an apparent link between religious devotion and OCD.

Some psychiatrists suspect the cause is genetic.

But opinion is divided as to whether the urge is exacerbated by a strict religious upbringing—in which actions are seen as either right or wrong and black or white—or whether people with these characteristics are drawn to a religious lifestyle and devotion to God.

AFP

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OPINION

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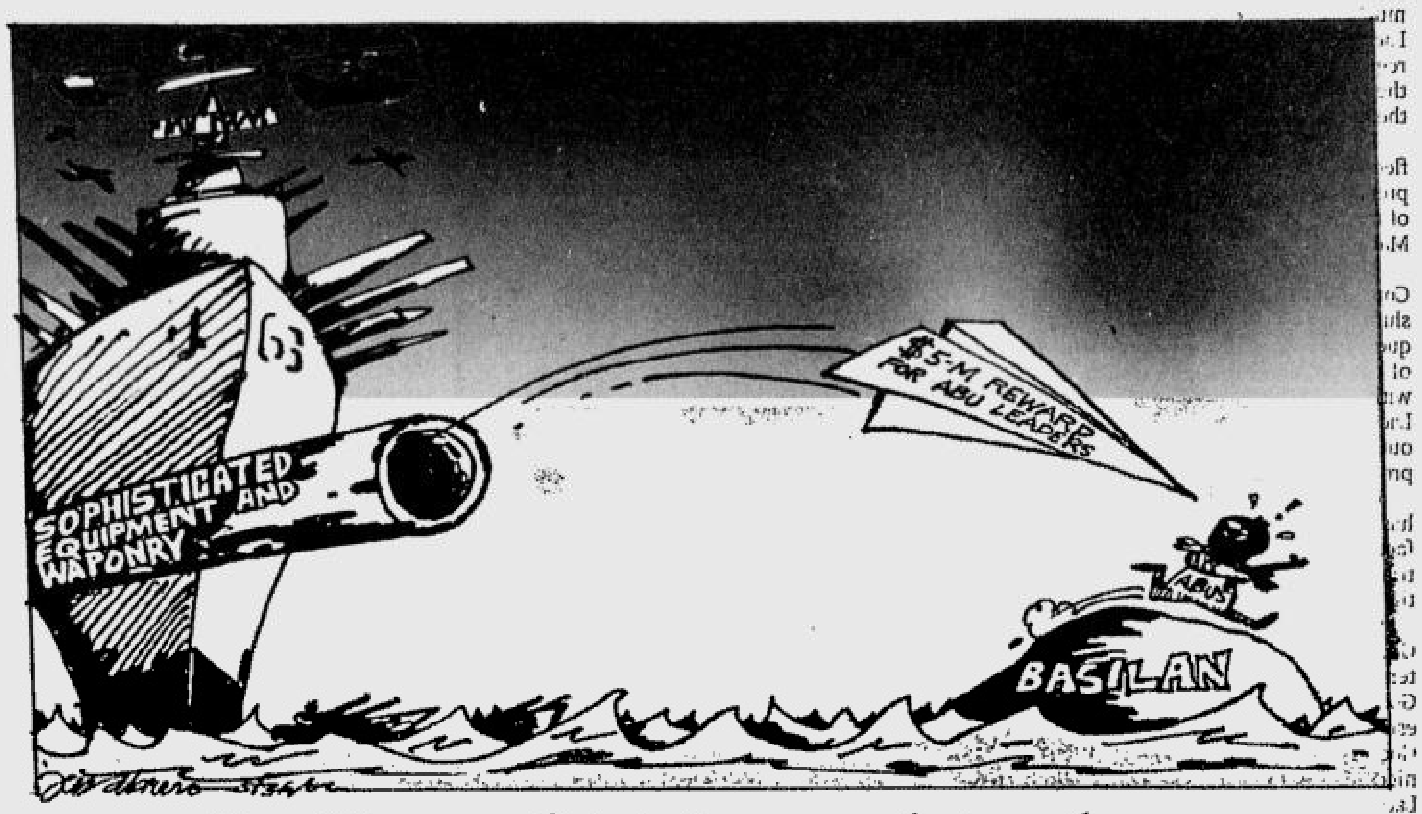
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SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT AND WAPONRY
$5-M REWARD FOR ABU LEADERS
ABUS
BASILAN

Money talks

EDITORIALS

THE US offer to reward tipsters with as much as $5 million for "information leading to the arrest or conviction" of Abu Sayyaf leaders can be understood in two ways: First, as an admission that the military option is not working, or second, as an indication that the war against the Abu Sayyaf has reached a new and critical stage.

Almost half a year since American soldiers first arrived in Zamboanga City and Basilan Island as part of a stepped-up counter-terrorism initiative, the last three hostages—American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap—remain in captivity. By and large, the Philippine military's campaign against the bandits has been successful: forcing the gang's strength down to less than 10 percent, causing 15 Dos Palmas hostages to be released, rescued or ransomed under intense military pressure, containing the hostage crisis to an increasingly smaller area in the jungles of Basilan.

But one year after the Burnhams were abducted, the most successful economy in world history may have finally realized that it was time to unleash the ultimate weapon in non-nuclear warfare: money.

This is not the first time that the United States has used this weapon. It has offered even bigger sums to draw information about al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden ($25 million) and Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar ($10 million). Judging by the results, the weapon has been a dud—but that is probably because ideology can serve as the equivalent of a bullet-proof vest, and the followers of Bin Laden and Omar are nothing if not ideological.

The Abu Sayyaf situation, however, may prove different. Starting as a band of Islamic ideologues, the group quickly turned into a gang of bandits. They continue to hide behind a smokescreen of fundamentalist Islamic slogans, but they have nothing in common with the great majority of peace-loving and devout Muslims in the country. Of course, nobody really knows whether the prospect of millions of dollars—and the prospect of relocating to the United States, if the informant needs protection—will work as intended; that is, as an implosion bomb, destroying the Abu Sayyaf from within.

Talking points

THE OFFER of reward, as Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable correctly explained the other day, is not an infringement on our sovereignty or a reckless intervention in our national affairs. American hostages are involved, and the US government is therefore well within its rights to make such an offer. It bears emphasizing that the offer is good worldwide—that is, even citizens of other countries who may have the right information come under the program. "We believe that ordinary citizens of the Philippines or elsewhere may have information that can help bring the Abu Sayyaf terrorists to justice," US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone told reporters on Wednesday. The contention therefore of Rep. Benasing Macarambong, that Ricciardone embarrassed the Philippine government by announcing the offer himself, is mendacious; it is politicking at its cheapest.

American citizens are among the hostages, the US government is putting up the money, the offer is international in scope: Why shouldn't the US government representative make the announcement?

The offer is part of the Rewards for Justice Program of the US Department of State; established in 1984 during the Reagan administration under the Act to Combat International Terrorism and administered by the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. This means that the money is available only for a specific purpose. We belabor this point because of the contention of Rep. Apolinario Lozada that the money should have gone instead to Filipino soldiers pursuing the Abu Sayyaf. Perhaps Lozada means well, but his argument assumes either that our soldiers are mendicants (waiting for the next dole) or they are mercenaries (waiting for the big payoff). And that the money meant by law to reward informants can be reappropriated to reward the very agents of the law acting on the information.

The country's soldiers have paid a high price in the year-long pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf gang, in terms of lost lives and stained post-Lamitan reputations. Rewarding them with millions of dollars for simply doing their job is a kind of honor they can do without.

'Las Vegas of Asia' on reclaimed area

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE HEAD of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., the gaming and gambling firm, is against addiction to gambling? Doesn't Pagcor make money, lots of it, out of people addicted to gambling? So the more gambling addicts, the better for Pagcor, right?

Last year, the state-owned gambling monopoly took out of the pockets of gamblers a whopping P14.62 billion. This year, it is targeting P16.15 billion in revenues. But believe it or not, Pagcor Chair Efraim Genuino was reported to be teaming up with various groups to wean Filipinos away from their addiction to gambling.

True or false? I asked this of Genuino himself in an interview and he confirmed it. "Pagcor should make money from international gamblers and tourists, not from Filipinos who cannot help it," he said. "Addiction to gambling produces dire results for addicts." Gambling, he said, should be only a form of amusement for those who can afford it.

But many dream of getting rich by beating the house. Forget it; you can't. The odds are always in favor of the house.

The common image of a gambling czar, brought on largely by stereotypes in the movies, is that of a ruthless Mafia-type don. Genuino does not fall into that type, although he sports a mustache like most film villains do. Genuino is a family man who leaves for home promptly at 5 p.m., has dinner always with his family and is happiest when with his wife and playing with his kids.

This is why he is planning to make a mini-Las Vegas out of 150 hectares of reclaimed land in Manila Bay. Las Vegas makes more money from entertainment, services, sales of goods and tourism than from gambling, he said.

Pagcor's $15-billion Entertainment City, in fact, will be a combination of Las Vegas and Disneyland, or a smaller version of Disney World in Orlando, Florida, with hotels and theme parks. The 10 hotels will have casinos, true, but the Entertainment City will have six theme parks. It will also have a marina, an indoor rainforest, shopping malls, offices and residential condominiums. All these will be linked by an elevated mass transit system. An 80-story tower, the highest in the Philippines, with a revolving restaurant at the top, will be its landmark visible from anywhere in the metropolis and out in the sea.

"There will be something for all the members of the family, kids and adults," said Genuino, "for those looking for adventure and excitement, for shopping, educational and cultural excursions, and for those who simply want to venture into a fantasy world."

Of the minimum $15 billion earmarked for the project, $9 billion will be used to develop the six theme parks. The rest will be raised by other developers who will build the support facilities such as roads, a mass transit system, cultural centers, shopping malls, office and residential towers.

The hotels will be constructed and owned by international hotel chains, many of them from Las Vegas. Pagcor's E-City will be the Las Vegas of Asia.

"It will be a total entertainment, leisure and gaming experience," said Genuino.

"This is unlike any other integrated development in the country, if not in Southeast Asia," said Jeremias T. Cruz, the architect commissioned by Pagcor to design the E-City. "There is no casino complex this big in Asia other than the casinos in Macau, Genting Highlands in Malaysia and hotel casinos in Australia."

"Casino gaming is gaining acceptability among governments and consumers," said Genuino. "More and more policymakers are attracted to the appeal of casino gambling to raise funds, attract investments, create employment and promote tourism." The E-City will generate tens of thousands of jobs for Filipinos and boost tourism.

Forty percent of the high-rollers in Las Vegas come from Asia, Genuino noted. "With E-City, we are telling them, why go to the United States? Why not play in Asia? But there are few casino centers in Asia. That's where E-City will come in."

I looked at the plans and there were a few things that I noted. E-City will certainly attract millions of people. Roxas Boulevard and the roads leading to it simply cannot absorb all that traffic. Traffic congestion there will be a nightmare. An elevated transit system from the airport will lead to E-City, but what about those who will not come from the airport? I suggested ferries from other parts of the metropolis to E-City.

One shortcoming of the plans is the lack of a seaside boulevard to replace Roxas Boulevard which will become an inland road. I think this is illegal. The law says the public must always have access to the sea. In fact, the Supreme Court, in a decision penned by then Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, nullified titles to the foreshore area at the Zobel-owned Hacienda Bigaa in Calatagan, Batangas, because it deprived the public of access to the sea.

Not only E-City but also the other seafront properties of the reclaimed area in Manila Bay will be violating the law if they do not provide a seaside boulevard for the public.

Such a boulevard will give the public one more route to E-City.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Guests at next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila forum are Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo. Topic: the missing ransom money for the Burnhams, and the missing P188-million payment for the commercial property beside the Bonifacio Monument at Grace Park.

State of emergency

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ON THE FACE of it, it's the wisest thing in the world. You give President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo emergency powers, as Fidel V. Ramos recommends, and she should be able to deal with the energy crisis more effectively. The Energy and Power Industry Reform Act, Ramos says, isn't just about privatizing the power industry. It is about, as the word says, reforming the power industry. "(It) must be amended to give the President the authority to do what needs to be done."

That's on the face of it. At the bottom of it, it's the battiest thing in the world.

At the very least, if we need the incumbent President to do anything, it is to stick to the law and not to feel free to flout it some more. The ongoing "Balikatan" exercises clearly go beyond the spirit and letter of the Visiting Forces Agreement, or of war games, but the President allows them anyway. If Ms Macapagal will do what she wants even without emergency powers, think of what she will do with them.

But it's more than that. The even bigger danger in giving Ms Macapagal emergency powers to deal with the power crisis is that she has shown a tendency to make policies on the basis of what is popular and not what is necessary. That's how she sees her ticket to 2004. But that also is what makes her vulnerable to striking deals that will make her look good today but will give the country no end of headache tomorrow.

Ramos had to deal only with the pressure of an energy crisis gone berserk, and look at the kinds of contracts he struck with the independent power producers. Ms Macapagal has to deal with the added pressure of appeasing a populace that will vote two years from now. Think of the deals she will be tempted to make then.

Quite apart from that, giving a president emergency powers to deal with a problem each time it reaches crisis proportions is a dangerous idea. This country's normal condition is a state of emergency. We have a crisis of law and order, we have a crisis of poverty, we have a crisis of social inequality, we have a crisis posed variously by the Abu Sayyaf, the Moro National Liberation Front and Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Crime is rampant in the streets, the threat of another explosion of rage by the poor hangs like the sword of Damocles, graft and corruption in government looms like the Colossus of Rhodes, Rolando Andaya's revelations being only the latest to show the extent of it.

We agree to the principle that the President must be given emergency powers to deal with emergencies, and we might as well scrap democracy. We might as well go the whole hog and revert back to martial law. If I remember right, Ramos during his term made occasional noises in that respect, lauding the efficacy of Lee Kuan Yew's brand of authoritarianism. I don't know why he keeps appropriating Edsa when his instincts clearly do not lie in that direction.

But what makes the idea suck the most is that those emergency powers precisely create the situation that makes more emergency powers necessary in future. Emergency powers are a natural invitation to recklessness. Or to taking shortcuts, if not to stoking the fires of tyrannical ambitions. You do not have to go far to see it than the deal Ramos himself struck with the IPPs with the powers vested in him by the Emergency Power Crisis Act.

Ramos' defenders argue that he brought us out of the darkness, literal and metaphorical, Cory Aquino threw us in. Lest we forget, they say, we were having as much as daylong brownouts before he took over, stalling office and factory work (except for those that had generators) and grinding the economy to a halt. The IPPs needed incentives, so he gave it to them.

Well, I have not forgotten the situation then. How can I when it wrecked havoc on my livelihood, which depended on the word processor? I did say in a previous column that that was the situation Ramos had to deal with when he made the contracts with the IPPs. But that doesn't justify those contracts. It is one thing to give incentives to groups proposing to put up power plants in this country, it is another to give them ironclad assurances of profits. No investor may be guaranteed that even if his projections are wrong, even if the economy takes a dive rather than soars, he will still make money. That is why an investor is also called an entrepreneur, because he takes risks.

I did say as well earlier that you compare that with the deal the farmers, who also produce the critical commodity called rice, have gotten over the past decade, and you see how the IPPs have gotten a sweetheart deal. That is why we have another crisis looming before us today, which is an utter lack of food security.

Emergency powers are by their nature self-perpetuating. They create the mistakes that call for another round of emergency powers to correct. It is like the Philippine National Police calling for more emergency powers, quite apart from a bigger budget, to deal with runaway crime. When the runaway crime is of their making, directly or indirectly, by participation or ineptitude. The whole system rewards recklessness and stupidity, when both should be severely censured and punished.

In fact, you do not need emergency powers at all to deal with a crisis. You need intelligence. It is so with a crisis of peace and order, it is so with a power crisis. That is why democracy is always the better system, however it is often laborious. Deliberation and transparency are always preferable to haste and opaqueness, even if you're stewing powerlessly, in more ways than one, and cursing the darkness rather than lighting a candle. It at least guarantees that you won't need to do that in the future.

We have the cart and horse wrong. It's not that we have emergency powers because we have no end of emergencies. It's that we have no end of emergencies because we have emergency powers.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

No winners or losers

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

NO interested party can claim to have gained from the Supreme Court decision remanding the multiple murder charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre to the regional trial court for determination of whether the two-year prescription period had lapsed for the revival of the case.

Reactions have run along partisan lines, reflecting the deep cleavage over the issues of Supreme Court decisions upholding the legitimacy of the successor government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The most the government can claim is that the Court's decision has kept the case alive and has shifted its venue back to the lower court where questions of facts—i.e. whether the requirements of the prescription period had been complied with—have to be determined. This is not good for Lacson. He faces a nagging uncertainty over the outcome of the case in the regional trial court, prolonging his agony.

In non-lawyer's language, the Supreme Court has decided that it is not its job to ascertain the facts and that this job is the responsibility of the trial court. Lacson betrays concern when he said the decision meant that "God is with us."

It's hard to understand why Lacson had to drag God into the case. The case is purely a secular matter involving assessment of facts. In saying that God has taken his side, Lacson suggests that he has established a special communication signal with God or that he is endowed with clairvoyance denied the other parties in the case. If anything, Lacson's statement indicates he is not confident of winning the next round of the case—in the arena of the trial court—which is why he is invoking the extraordinary and supernatural power to save him from the ordeal of the reopening of the case.

The religious theme was also redolent in the comment of Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, Wenceslao Agnir Jr., who said that the decision was a "manna from heaven for the accused." Agnir, like Lacson, may have established his own extra-terrestrial pipeline to heaven, enabling him to see how divine justice distributes its favors. Judges are supposed to evaluate evidence and facts carefully, without involving heaven in this determination. The comment is self-serving and imprudent. It appears as a justification of his decision to dismiss the charges "provisionally" against Lacson on March 31, 1999, after prosecution witnesses retracted their testimony.

Agnir was promoted by former President Joseph Estrada to the Court of Appeals after the dismissal of the charges. Prudence and good taste dictate that Agnir should have kept quiet instead of speaking out his opinion on the Supreme Court's decision.

The Supreme Court has come under fire for tossing back the case to the trial court on the question of prescription, with Senate President Franklin Drilon assailing it as a "cop-out." The implication of this criticism is that the Court should have decided on the issue of prescription, based on the assumption that records of the case had been sent to it and that it could very well had examined the records.

What this reaction suggests is that some groups, including Drilon, would have liked to see the Court take a more activist role by examining the records and make a categorical ruling on the issue of prescription. In sending the case back to the trial court, it appears that the Court has stepped back from the judicial activism that had marked its series of decisions on the legitimacy issues arising from the accession of President Macapagal. It may well be that the Court's decision to remand the murder charges against Lacson to the lower court marked an effort to counter perceptions by Estrada supporters that it had gone out of the way to assert judicial activism in politically charged cases.

The Estrada camp, up until now, has questioned the acts of the Supreme Court in legitimizing the Macapagal government, starting with the oath-taking on Jan. 20, 2001 of Ms Macapagal as president, administered by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. Estrada partisans have accused the Court of having been politicized in inducting President Macapagal into office and in backing this action with decisions upholding the legitimacy of her government.

It is well to remember, however, that when the Chief Justice swore in Ms Macapagal, a power vacuum had taken place following the military's withdrawal of support for Estrada and the shift of its allegiance to the constitutional successor, Vice President Macapagal. The refusal of Estrada to resign and the move to march to Malacañang to demand his resignation were leading the nation toward a civil war. It appeared that the foremost concern of the justices was to fill the power vacuum in order to arrest the plunge toward civil strife. Coincidentally, that was also the concern of the military hierarchy when Gen. Angelo Reyes, then Armed Forces chief of staff, led the generals to sever the military's allegiance to Estrada.

For those who expected a continuation of the Court's activist role in the charges against Lacson, a case that is also highly politicized, the Court's *démarche* could not but be disappointing.

Law protects solo parents and their children

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I FINALLY met "Ms A" in person the other day, along with her three friends who comprise each other's collective support system. Three of them are single parents, including "Ms A," while the last hold-out swears she will have to be dragged out, kicking and screaming, before she leaves her marriage.

Over a lunch of Japanese food and saucy, spicy talk, we gave short shrift to husbands, affairs, men's inability to connect intimately, children's fragile emotional states, other couples that have or are on the brink of breaking up, and of course the horrible hypocrisy of "Catholic" or "Christian" schools and their policies toward the children of solo parents. In short, we had a typical "ladies' lunch."

But beneath the laughter and the bravado, one could sense a stream of resentment, hurt and—dare I say it?—anger at the way Philippine society deals with the issues of solo parenthood, especially when it happens as a result of the breakup of a marriage, or the fact that there had never been a marriage to speak of.

One of them was interviewed by a sort of "parents' council" before her son was accepted into a Catholic school for boys. "They wanted to know why our marriage broke up, if a third party was involved, and if I was currently involved with someone else," she recounted.

"Why didn't you say it was none of their damned business?" I wanted to know.

"Well, there wasn't any third party, really, and I had no boyfriend then, so I found it easy to answer them truthfully. But when it was over, I was shaking with anger," she said.

Other schools, another single mother (not with the group) told me, employ more subtle means to check on the marital status of their students' parents. "They just ask for a family picture every year," she said. "Luckily, my husband does show up every Christmas, so my kids have a new picture of our 'intact' family to show their teachers each year."

But what lessons in dissembling, hypocrisy and dishonesty are we teaching our children then?

* * *

WHY did I write (again) about this medieval policy of some elite institutions, discriminating against children who come from so-called "broken" homes?

Apart from the fact that it is illegal, it's also foolish and cruel. The policy in effect punishes a child for something he or she has no control over and can do nothing about. To say, as some people have told me, that the policy was conceived so that separated parents would be "forced" to reconcile is a crock of bull. If it were within the power of every child to restore a marriage, there would be no need for annulment lawyers and family courts. But marriage is an adult endeavor, and only the two adults involved can sustain a marriage or destroy it.

And the damage would be confined just to the adults if only "moralists" would stop stigmatizing and punishing the innocent party.

Lourdes Balanon, undersecretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, wrote me recently that "Article 3 of PD No. 603, The Child and Youth Welfare Code, states that all children shall be entitled to the rights herein set forth without distinction as to legitimacy or illegitimacy, sex, social status, religion, political antecedents and other factors." Schools, she added, should "not subject such child to discrimination." All schools therefore should give children of solo parents equal opportunities to receive the kind of education they and their parents wish for them and can afford to pay for.

* * *

UNDERSECRETARY Balanon, for good measure, enclosed a copy of RA 8972, better known as the Solo Parents Welfare Act, as well as its implementing rules and regulations.

Signed into law on Nov. 7, 2000, the law defines a "solo parent" in several ways. One is a woman survivor of rape and other forms of sexual violence who gets pregnant as a result and decides to keep and raise the child. Another is a man or woman who is left with sole responsibility to raise the child(ren) as a result of the death of the spouse, the conviction and imprisonment of the spouse, the physical or mental incapacity of the spouse, or legal or de facto separation, declaration of nullity or abandonment. An unmarried mother or father who raises the child(ren) is also considered a solo parent, as well as "any other person who solely provides parental care and support to a child or children," or a family member who assumes parental responsibility upon the death/abandonment of a child(ren)'s natural parents.

* * *

BEING more concerned with the "welfare" of solo parents and their children, the Solo Parents Welfare Act provides a slew of benefits, from housing to scholarships, to livelihood assistance and medical services, including counseling.

The "rights" of solo parents and their children are only tangentially mentioned. For instance, the law provides that no employer may discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment "on account of his/her status." The law is silent, but I suppose this means that civil service rules on the "immorality" of civil servants, which includes getting pregnant out of wedlock, will be reviewed or rescinded. The law also provides for seven days' parental leave for solo parents, as well as a flexible work schedule, so long as productivity is not affected.

So if solo parents' rights and welfare are protected and provided for in the law, what more the rights and welfare of their children? On this issue, some schools are simply out of line, legally and morally.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Trivia

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

RUMMAGING through my brother-in-law's junk food heap the other night, I noticed a box of popcorn with Olympic trivia printed on the back. After picking out a chocolate bar, I told my sister to be more diligent at the grocery this week and purchase the popcorn with Ambeth Ocampo's historical trivia on the box.

She stared at me and asked, "*Ano naman ginagawa mo sa kahon ng* popcorn?"

"*Aba*," I exclaimed, "you can never tell. Someone might win a million pesos on a game show because he or she was crazy enough to read the back of a popcorn box."

A reader once e-mailed to thank me for writing about Jose Rizal's winning second prize in lotto. I made the mistake of writing down the number of Rizal's winning lotto ticket without betting on it first. The reader used Rizal's number and won a modest cash prize. Unfortunately, that bit of welcome news did not come with *balato*.

Another reader took a copy of "Bonifacio's Bolo" to read while waiting in line at the US Embassy visa section. When he got to the window, the consular officer noted that he was a history teacher and asked, "Do you know Ambeth Ocampo?" He pulled out my book from his knapsack, showed it to the consul and got his visa.

One wonders, though, how he would have responded if the visa officer had asked him something more complicated like reciting the sixth stanza of "Ultimo Adios" or explaining the postcolonial, feminist view on Rizal's characterization of Maria Clara and Salome in "Noli Me Tangere."

Between risking my reputation by joining an inane TV game show or risking my life trying to get information leading to the arrest of Abu Sayyaf leaders (that's $5 million, folks) there must be an easier way to become a millionaire.

I wonder if producers of TV game shows have exhausted all sources for questions. I will never read the complete Encyclopedia Britannica but I had, at least, leafed through every page of the 10-volume "Filipino Heritage," the 10-volume "CCP Encyclopedia of Philippine Art," and the 10-volume "Kasaysayan: History of the Filipino People." I have not read these from cover to cover, but I have looked at all the pictures and read the accompanying captions.

Just recently I went over Zoilo M. Galang's 20-volume "Encyclopedia of the Philippines." Though printed in 1958, the contents were probably written earlier so that the material was already history even before it hit the press. Encyclopedias are obsolete as soon as they are printed.

In Volume 19 of Galang's encyclopedia was a long list of "First Facts about the Philippines." There is no rhyme or reason for the entries—just hard, undigested facts, many of which will be challenged today. For example: "The number one living authority on Philippine ethnology and archaeology is Professor H. Otley Beyer of the state university." Beyer is long gone and I'm sure the best way to cause strife in Philippine anthropology is to name a "number one living authority" today.

Harder to validate are: Rizal being "the most read Filipino," Manuel L. Quezon being "the most popular statesman," Carlos P. Romulo being "the most decorated and internationally known Filipino."

I also wonder what kind of mind-set Filipino schoolchildren will develop when they are fed information about: the smallest fish in the world (*tabios*); the smallest monkey in the world (*tarsier*); the smallest deer in the world (mouse deer); the smallest and most ferocious carabao in the world (*tamaraw*). For a change, can't we have something that is the biggest in the world?

I may complain a lot, but I read the entire list, filling my brain with useless information that may come in handy one day. The following caught my attention:

The oldest street in the Philippines is Calle Colon in Cebu. The first Filipino philanthropist was Margarita Roxas de Ayala. The first Filipina Mason was Rosario Villaruel. The first Filipino dentist was Bonifacio Arevalo. The first lady-dentist was Catalina Arevalo. A monthly lottery was established in 1850. Pawnshops were authorized to operate in 1860. Electric light came to Manila in 1895. The American governor who was fond of *rigodon de honor* was Henry L. Stimson. Frank Murphy was the first American bachelor governor, the last governor general and first United States high commissioner to the Philippines. The governor who divorced many wives was F.B. Harrison. Manuel Guerrero found the cure for *tiki-tiki*.

There are quotable quotes from pre-colonial leaders:

Humabon is supposed to have said, "If these people have not learned a lesson from the incident at Mactan, let us give it to them." Was this before he slaughtered the survivors of the Battle of Mactan?

Rajah Matanda a.k.a Lakandula told the Spaniards, "I assure you always of my friendship." In contrast, the young rajah, "Rajamora" a.k.a Soliman said: "I have to protect our people from abuses."

An unnamed rajah of Macabebe is quoted to have said: "May the sun split my body into halves and may my women heap their hatred on me if I should ever become a friend of the Castilians."

I hope to trace these quotes one day if only to find the elusive Filipino voice in historical accounts written by foreigners. By itself raw data is trivia, but arranged in some order it becomes useful.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

A dirty addiction to tobacco money

COMMENTARY

Dr. Shigeru Omi

IMAGINE if cocaine were legalized and being heavily marketed to the youth: advertised in sports stadiums, given free at discos, promoted at pop concerts and even used openly in schools. The aim? Obviously to get young people to take cocaine. Surely there would be howls of protest from parents everywhere.

Yet every day, something similar is happening. Tobacco companies are targeting children with the most clever and skilful marketing.

In Asia, children see such marketing in sports stadiums, discos and pop concerts. And, yes, even in schools. In Kandy, Sri Lanka, one large tobacco multinational paid for its popular brand logo to be painted on the front wall of a prestigious girls' school and the scoreboard of a boys' school.

Tobacco firms sponsor the national soccer league in Malaysia, key boxing matches in the Philippines and outdoor adventure races across Asia. They have also sponsored performances in Asia by top pop stars such as Madonna, The Corrs, Savage Garden and Deep Purple.

In discos funded by tobacco companies in Sri Lanka and China, attractive young women give out free cigarettes and other promotional freebies, while the cigarette brand's name stands out boldly somewhere in the smoke-filled room.

Across Asia, the youth are being targeted through their passions: sports and music. The aim of such marketing is to give cigarettes, a product that causes death, a "cool," exciting, and attractive image, the kind of image that appeals to the young.

It is astonishing that this continues with little protest. All the evidence indicates that advertising gets children to start smoking, otherwise why would tobacco firms bet billions on it?

This is why this year's tobacco-free World Cup in Korea and Japan is an important step forward for health. If human health is to progress, then we have to prevent the young from smoking, which means taking tobacco out of sports.

Some people may claim that tobacco is not as dangerous a drug as cocaine. Not true. Make no mistake: tobacco **is** a drug. And it kills. The probability of experimenting with tobacco, becoming addicted and later dying prematurely is higher than with any other drug. If tobacco were discovered only today, it would never be made legal.

Tobacco—or specifically the nicotine in it—is addictive, reaching the brain within a few seconds of inhaling smoke. Nicotine addiction is established quickly. Saliva concentrations of cotinine, a marker for nicotine exposure, rise rapidly as the habit grows.

Sadly, many teens—even in the West—underestimate just how addictive smoking is, and are later unable to give it up when they want to. At present, one in every five teenagers globally smokes.

But if smoking is so dangerous, you may argue, then how can such advertising be allowed? Good question. In fact, the ubiquitous presence of cigarette advertising helps promote the thinking that perhaps smoking is not all that bad. A recent British survey found that about half of smokers felt that "smoking can't really be all that dangerous, or the government wouldn't let cigarettes be advertised."

Smoking **is** dangerous. It is the world's single biggest killer, causing one in 10 deaths globally—far more than AIDS. By 2030, it will kill one in every six adults globally. Yet relatively little is spent to research or control it.

It is this situation that led the World Health Organization to propose an international treaty to set legally binding regulations on tobacco advertising, taxation, education and prevention. The Framework Convention for Tobacco Control—if ratified next year by WHO's member states—is our best chance to curb tobacco promotion. It is designed to take the gloss off tobacco and help us to see smoking for what it is.

A century or so ago, the use of opium was widely accepted. Today, nobody would argue for its use. It is the social acceptability of smoking that keeps it thriving.

More and more people are waking up to the truth about tobacco. The European Union plans to set up a total advertising and sponsorship ban by 2006. In Asia, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have all set up some form of tobacco control.

The World Cup and the Olympics are now tobacco-free. And by 2006, Formula One will be too. The money involved in tobacco sponsorship of sports is no small sum. Indeed, for motor sports, it is estimated to be more than $350 million a year. But slowly, we are seeing that sports can afford to drop that sponsorship and not lose.

In Vietnam, where more than 70 percent of men smoke, the national soccer team recently stopped its sponsorship by a tobacco firm. India's national cricket team has also ended its long-term links with tobacco and players no longer have to wear cigarette logos on their uniforms. In Australia, sponsorship revenues have doubled since a 1996 federal ban on all tobacco sponsorship—and that does not even include the 2000 Olympics.

The exit of "easy tobacco money" has, ironically, helped sporting associations realize the true commercial value of their sports in marketing.

Governments, sports organizations and other bodies need to wean themselves from tobacco money. The addiction to tobacco money is, arguably, one of the most dangerous and dirty of all.

The author is the director for the Western Pacific Region of the World Health Organization. This commentary was written in connection with the commemoration of World No Tobacco Day on May 31. This day also marks the kick-off for the FIFA 2002 World Cup, which is officially tobacco-free.

THEY SAID

Disastrous

"Short-circuiting the legislative process may seem convenient for some of us who are seeking reelection but may prove disastrous to an ailing economy now burdened by the National Power Corp.'s P600-billion debt."
—Party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales on amending the Electric Power Industry Act

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A consenting adult on the other side of the bed

PRIESTS do take a vow of celibacy at their ordination and the vow of chastity during their religious consecration. However, because of human frailty, they can fall and break these vows. When this happens, it is the personal decision of the individual priest, not of the Catholic Church or of the congregation to which he belongs.

On the other hand, a woman who gets involved with and is impregnated by a priest is also making a personal decision. Still when issues of this nature arise, the focus and the blame seem to be concentrated on the priest.

The fact is, the other side of the problem is the woman, a consenting adult who entered into a relationship with the priest.

The secretary of Fr. Nicanor Sta. Maria claims they carried on a relationship that lasted close to five years. That was more than ample time to reflect and realize the consequences of such a relationship. She had a part in the making of the problem. From the very start, she must have known all the complications of being emotionally involved or falling in love with a priest . As an adult of about 24 years, she could have taken steps to prevent the problem if she wanted to. She could have refused to have sex with the priest.

If Father Sta. Maria were an executive working in Makati and she were his secretary and they got romantically involved, would she be doing what she is doing now? I am not trying to exonerate the priest and I grant that child support should be given, but let us remember that on the other side of the bed was a consenting adult.

—DELFIN ANGELES,
Parañaque City

Piatco cleared of all charges

WE note with concern the full-page advertisement in your May 17 issue placed by the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc.'s (Piatco) rabid opponent, the MIAA-Naia Association of Service Operators (Maso), carrying "extracts" from an alleged consultancy contract between Piatco and a certain Mr. Liongson along with the supposed invoices.

Piatco has stated its position on this issue in a previous letter faxed to you last May 9, 2002. But you did not print it. However, we are not complaining and we are not about to interfere with your editorial judgment. Our present concern is that your paper might be serving as an unwitting (or witting?) tool not only for disseminating lies and scurrilous commentary against innocent persons, but also become an accessory to a crime perpetrated in desperation by the same detractor of Piatco.

It could not have escaped your notice that all the previous advertisements of Maso alleging illegality and irregularity in our BOT contract with the government for the Naia Terminal 3 project have been proven wrong and unfounded by the appropriate authorities. The Ombudsman has thrown out Maso's and its dummies' complaints thrice for being devoid of merit, the latest being the plunder case where Perfecto Yasay even used a forged affidavit from a fake witness.

Two committees of Congress have both come up with reports on the inquiries they conducted to the effect that this contract is legal and aboveboard.

We perfectly understand the need of a publication to earn in order to continue serving the public, hence, we have no objection to your carrying as many paid advertisements as your paper's space can accommodate. We believe however that your business interests must also yield to the basic requirements of truth, fairness, decency and legality.

Piatco is a private entity, not a government agency. Its owners and officers are private persons, not public officials. From what we know, private parties deserve a more circumspect treatment, more so from an intelligent and reputable publication such as yours.

—MOISES S. TOLENTINO JR.,
vice president for public affairs, Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc.,
3/F PAIR-PAGS Center, Naia Compound, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Pasay City

Models of corruption for the youth

SO many negative things have been said about the Sangguniang Kabataan. Like: Its members are so young yet so corrupt. They are not able to fulfill their promise of serving the youth sector well. Many have used their position as milking cows and misspent the SK budget to facilitate shady deals and worthless projects or purchases.

All of these have happened and may still be happening, so what should we do?

Abolish the SK? I hope not, because not all SK officials are worthless. In our barangay, the SK has a program called the Comet Center—Computer Mobile Education and Training Center—that gives free computer education to our youth. The same services are being extended to women and adults. This program is solely administered and financed by the Sangguniang Kabataan since other government officials don't consider it a priority. They say their pork barrel won't allow them to provide a single computer which could help educate hundreds of marginalized youth on information technology. Sadly these people are the ones calling for the abolition of the SK.

If the only reason they want the SK abolished is that the youth are being corrupted by the process, then their offices should be abolished also. After all, they have served as good examples of corruption for the young people.

—FOURTH LAGAO, SK chair,
kabataanf_lagao@yahoo.com

The sex scandals rocking the Church

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

(Voices on INQ7.net is a weekly round-up of comments selected from those posted by thousands of Filipinos, here and overseas, on the Discussion message boards of INQ7.net, the online news website of the INQUIRER and GMA-7. To participate, register at http://discussions.inq7.net/)

WITH ALL the news popping up here in North America about predator Roman Catholic priests and bishops disgracing themselves (and the Roman Catholic religion they represent), I wonder if there is a similar wave of curiosity taking place in the Philippines.

Has there been any initiative on the part of the Church to conduct an internal "inquiry," or are Church leaders playing dumb lest they open a can of worms, so to speak?

It's about time that the Catholic leadership in the Philippines shifted its focus to a serious matter such as this and clean up shop in the process.

If they are for a high standard of morality in the government, they should adopt the same rule in their house.—**BruteForce**

* * *

A controversial parish priest somewhere in Parañaque sleeps with a handsome young man inside his room. He's afraid of being alone in the room, he says.

Another priest in the adjoining parish was involved with his secretary and reassigned to do administrative work.

Before him, there was a priest who was maintaining a family in Parañaque. Now I begin to doubt the so-called "priestly care" of young boys or girls. I used to give donations to a priest who was very active in the charismatic renewal movement. It now occurs to me that something out of the ordinary must have been happening inside the walls of his program for young boys.

No, I think these are not isolated cases. Years of confinement in the seminary with others of the same sex produce a middle sex, by dint of natural necessity.

Whoever concocted the idea that sex is a sin must have greatly influenced the dogma of the Catholic Church. Even the Church account of creation revolves around sex as the original sin. But look how the priests crave for it. It shows sex is very natural, and therefore the priest is not supposed to sin if he indulges in sex. But by Church dogma he sins.

Why not allow priests to marry in the first place? If the Church goes by the Bible, they can do what the apostles did and marry and have families. I think the Church is trying to paddle upstream and leaving her priests to exhaust themselves or forcing them to jump into the river.

Yes, I have a friend who is a priest and he's the one who has been asking me not to generalize.—**Damon**

* * *

In my opinion, the Church is using its political clout to influence the government on certain issues so that it would decide in favor of the Church. For instance, there's divorce. I have neighbors who have been separated for years and have been living with other partners with whom they have kids, but still they remain "married" to their original spouses under Philippine law. A few senators summoned the courage to introduce a bill legalizing divorce, but that went nowhere as they ran smack against the Church's well-oiled political machine.

Now, I am neither a religious person nor an atheist, but I think divorce should be legalized in our country. Look at all those "bastard" kids roaming around. It doesn't help when a president (umm, well, former president) has himself fathered numerous offspring out of wedlock and was proud of it.

Although I am neither pro nor anti-abortion, I think the Church should allow a woman to decide for herself.

While it is true that the Catholic Church here has some bad apples (as in any organization), that it's been guilty of looking the other way on some issues and that it sometimes looks like a money-making operation, it has done some good in some areas, including education, calamity assistance and providing spiritual guidance to those who seek it.—**gitarista**

* * *

There is no specific penalty prescribed in Canon Law for a priest who has erred sexually. This is left to the individual bishop in his respective diocese.

What should be looked into is how candidates for the priesthood are being formed. There is plenty of "suppression" in the seminaries when it comes to managing one's sexuality. This is the reason many priests are really maladjusted when it comes to handling their sexuality. Either they are cranky old bachelors, or secret philandering maniacs.

We have to be fair when we talk about priests. They are human and sexual just like anyone. To give too much publicity to the sins of priests is to be cruel to them.—**jag k**

* * *

Canon Law may be silent about punishing a priest who commits a sexual offense, but our criminal laws provide that any person, including priests, must be punished for sex-related crimes (e.g. acts of lasciviousness, rape, pedophilia).

How does one talk fairly about priests? If politicians, public officials and other public figures can be criticized in a certain way, why can't priests be criticized in the same way? If the media give too much publicity to priests, bishops, or cardinals who publicly attack or condemn certain individuals for alleged sins or immorality, then why shouldn't there be much publicity about priests who sin? Aren't priests who condemn being cruel? Are we not forgetting something here?—**conway**

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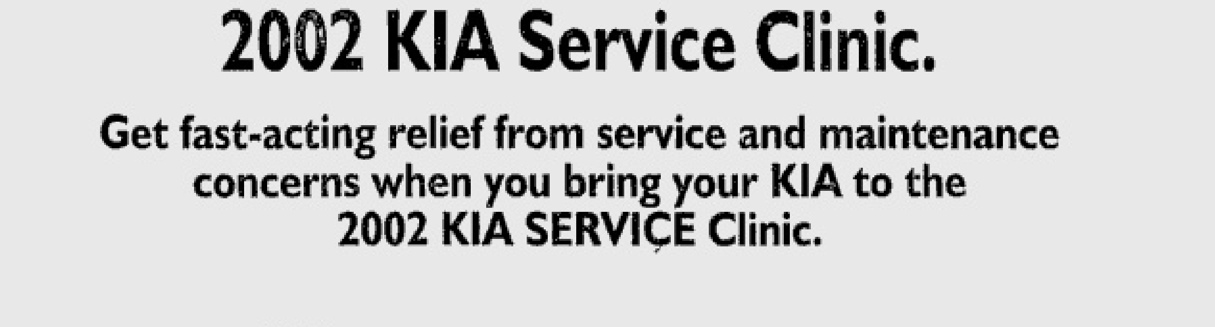

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

India-Pakistan war 'not inevitable,' says Straw

NEW DELHI—British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on Wednesday described simmering military tensions between India and Pakistan as "dangerous" but said war was not inevitable between the two South Asian nuclear adversaries.

"The situation is dangerous, but war is not inevitable. We have to continue with consistent diplomacy," Straw said as stepped-up artillery clashes between Indian and Pakistani gunners in Kashmir left four dead and 30 injured on the Indian side Wednesday.

Straw told reporters that neither side wished for war. "I am clear that war is not inevitable," he reiterated before leaving for London, ending his trip to India and Pakistan.

The two countries deployed a million troops on their border after Dec. 13, when gunmen attacked the Indian parliament. India has also booted out Pakistan's ambassador and cut road, rail and air links with its estranged neighbor.

Before leaving India, Straw briefed Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on his meetings in Islamabad, officials said, adding that Vajpayee detailed India's position to the visiting British politician.

Earlier Straw told a news conference here that Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf seriously wanted to stop what New Delhi calls "cross-border terrorism" into Indian Kashmir.

"I believe that General Musharraf is serious, but the test of everything is action on the ground," Straw told a joint press conference with his Indian counterpart Jaswant Singh.

But Singh reiterated that India was losing patience with Musharraf, despite his statement this week that infiltration was not taking place.

"General Musharraf has had all the time that he wants since Sept. 11," Singh said. "It is vital that he sees the urgency of the situation."

Straw also met Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes and rejected media reports that London had put an embargo on the sale of 66 advanced military jet trainers to India because of the growing regional tensions, officials said.

Vajpayee, meanwhile, told his Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi on the telephone that India would like "to walk along the path of peace."

"It is absolutely necessary to avoid a war, but there is a limit to our patience," Vajpayee said.

A Japanese envoy, Senior Vice Foreign Minister Seiken Sugiura, said in Islamabad that Pakistan had promised to do more to check the flow of militants into the Indian zone of Kashmir.

"We will step up efforts to curb movements across the Line of Control," the de facto border in Kashmir, Sugiura quoted Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar as telling him.

Already tense relations between India and Pakistan nosedived May 14, when gunmen New Delhi says were Pakistani attacked a bus and Indian army base in Kashmir, leaving 35 people dead, most of them women and children. *AFP*

US cool to Libya's $2.7-B Lockerbie offer

WASHINGTON—Libya's preliminary $2.7 billion offer to families of 270 people killed in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am 103 is not the only step needed for a lifting of sanctions against Moammar Gadhafi's country, the US administration said.

Lawyers for the families, who announced the offered compensation package, said Libya conditioned its payment on revocation by the United Nations and the United States of all punitive sanctions.

Cautioning that no official offer is on the table, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday: "It certainly is a step in the right direction, but I don't think it resolves the entire issue, resolves all the outstanding issues that have to be dealt with respect to Libya and Pan Am 103."

As word came from Tripoli that lawyers on both sides might be close to agreement on settling a 1996 lawsuit by victims' families against the Libyan government, state department spokesperson Richard Boucher said Libya's ability to reach agreement with the families "would be a highly significant factor as we went forward to consider how to proceed."

"But at this point," Boucher said, "it's the first of a variety of things, requirements that need to be fulfilled. It's not the be-all and end-all of the whole process."

The United States still insists, Boucher said, that Libya meet other requirements set forth in the UN Security Council resolution that imposed international sanctions: full disclosure by the Libyans of all information surrounding the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103; formal acceptance of responsibility; renunciation of terrorism; and a clean break of all ties with terror groups.

Of the 270 victims in the bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, 189 were Americans. How their survivors feel about Libya's compensation offer, which amounts to $10 million per family, will be a big factor in the administration's determination of the next steps, Boucher said.

So far, those feelings range from outrage to grudging acceptance.

"For us to accept $10 million when there's a mass murder that took place and no admission of guilt is given, you're saying you can kill as many Americans as you want, and we'll look the other way," said Victoria Cummock, from Coral Gables, Florida, whose husband John was killed. *AP*

Israel troops enter Hebron

HEBRON, West Bank—Israeli troops entered the West Bank city of Hebron from three directions before daybreak Thursday, Palestinian security officials said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Israelis moved into the city in three tanks, about 20 armored personnel carriers and some 20 jeeps. They surrounded several houses.

The officials said the Israeli operation appeared aimed at making arrests, and did not look like an attempt to gain control of the whole city.

Israeli military sources said the operation was to end later Thursday morning and Israeli forces would withdraw. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said by daybreak, four wanted Palestinians had been arrested.

Since the end of a full-scale Israeli incursion into the West Bank that ended earlier this month, Israeli forces have been conducting almost nightly raids into Palestinian towns and villages, arresting suspected militants and searching for weapons and explosives. *AP*

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New Yorkers mark the end of recovery efforts at Ground Zero

NEW YORK—Eight months after two hijacked planes destroyed the World Trade Center forever damaging Americans' sense of security, New Yorkers Thursday mark the end of the recovery effort at Ground Zero, having cleared almost two million tons of debris and painful reminders.

At 10:29 a.m. (10:29 p.m. in Manila), a ceremony will be held at the site marking the official end of the recovery effort. The time marks the exact moment the second of the 110-story twin towers collapsed after being hit on Sept. 11, 2001.

The other tower, also struck by a hijacked airliner, had collapsed moments earlier. More than 2,800 people were killed in the New York attacks.

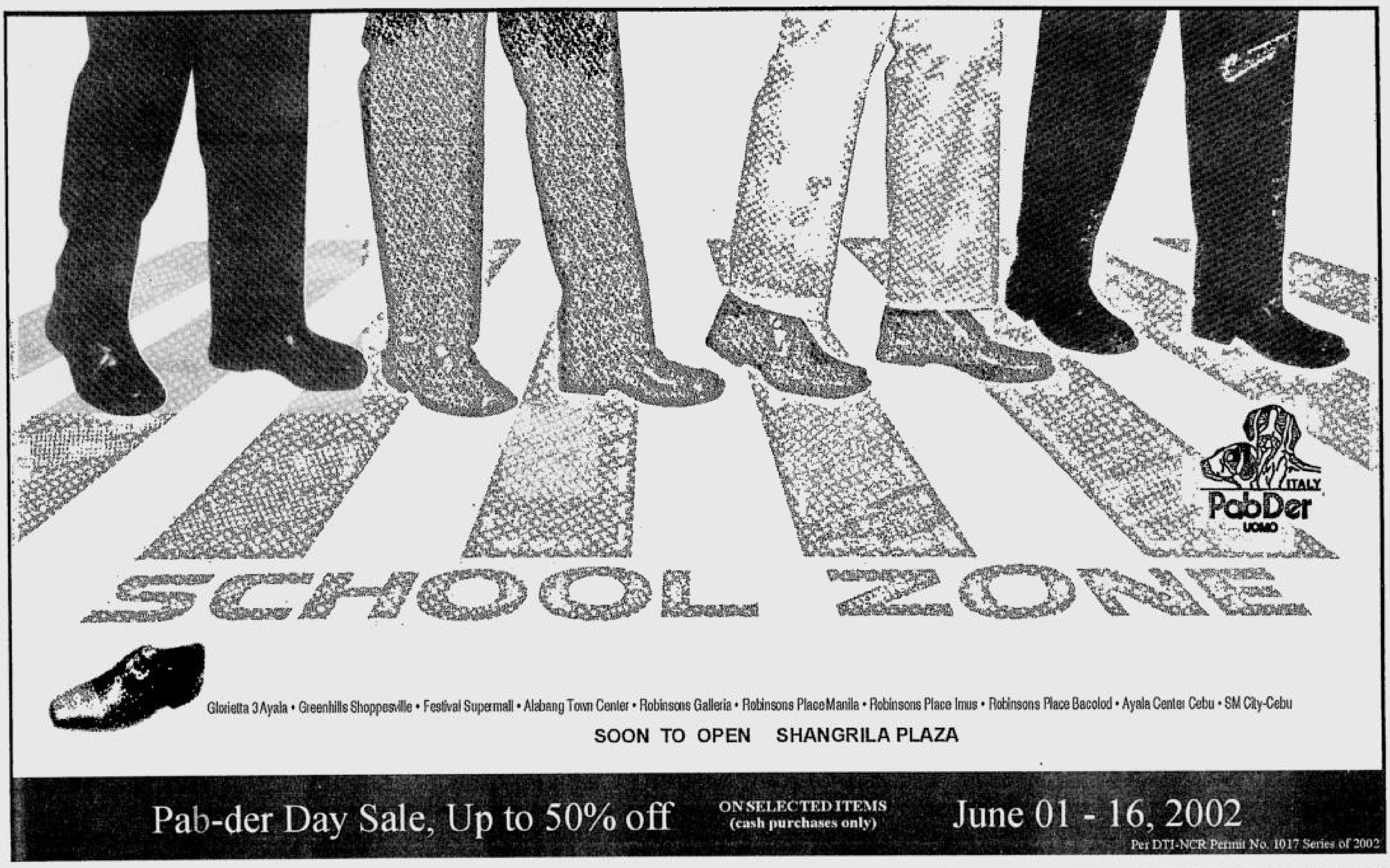
Late Tuesday a 10 meter tall steel girder weighing 58 tons, which had been left standing after the other beams were cut down 'and had become an informal shrine to the attack victims, was draped in the star-spangled banner and lowered onto a truck flatbed to the mournful tune of bagpipes.

In Thursday's ceremony, the truck carrying the girder will slowly leave the pit followed by an empty flag-draped stretcher, symbolizing almost 2,000 victims whose remains have never been found.

The families of the victims, those who worked at the site, and a handful of officials have been invited to the somber ceremony.

The steel girder will be stored in a warehouse at Kennedy Airport, where it will likely be used as part of a memorial to be built at the site.

The matter of what to do with the vacant lot now needs to be decided, but in any case no building is likely to start before the end of the year. **AFP**



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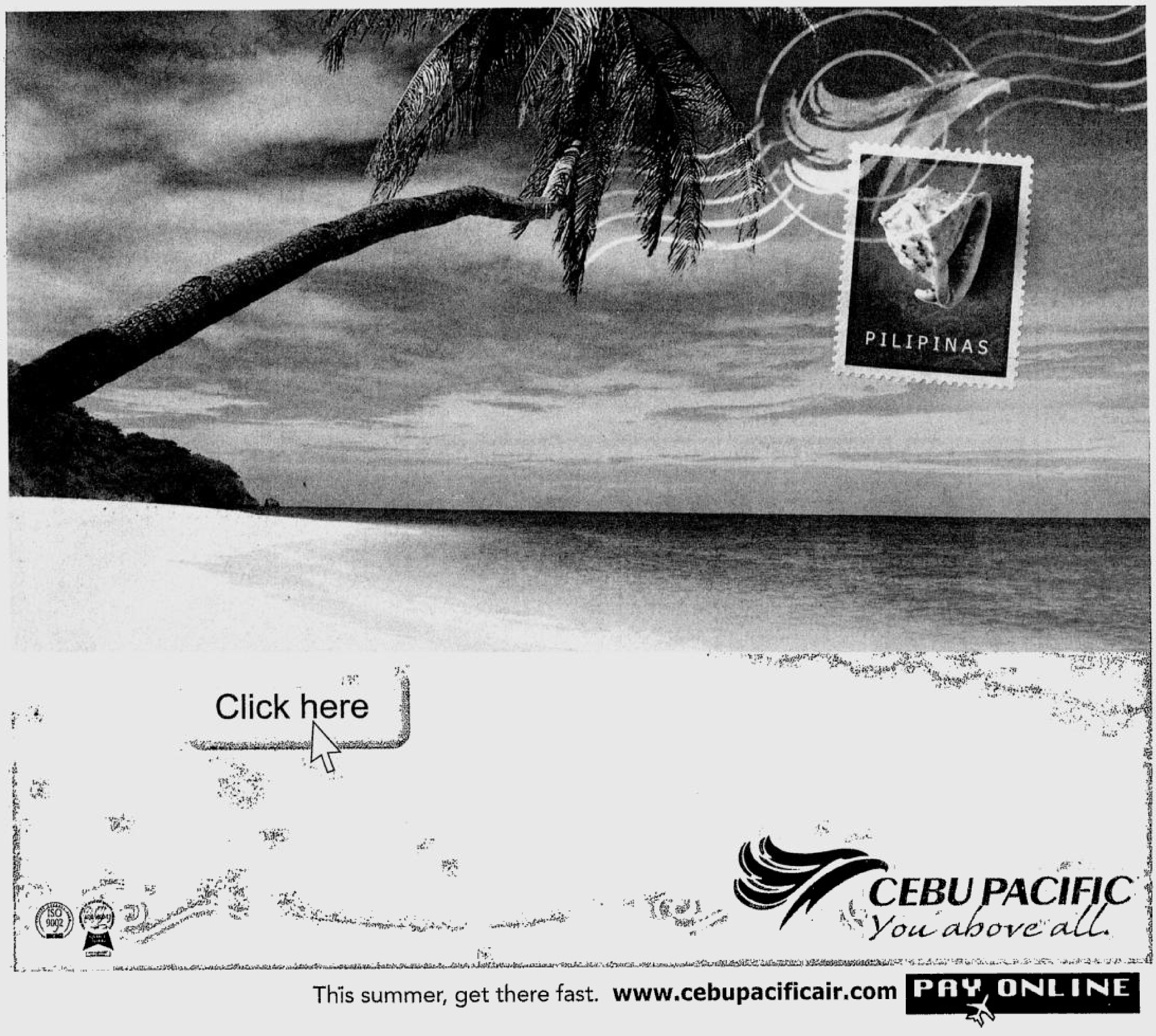

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V'zuela's Carmona takes refuge in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia—Venezuelan businessman Pedro Carmona, president during a coup that briefly ousted President Hugo Chavez, took refuge in Colombia Wednesday.

Carmona, who was granted asylum in Colombia over the weekend, settled in to a plush apartment in northern Bogota, surrounded by trees and manicured lawns.

"He is resting right now," said German Bula, Venezuela's ambassador to Colombia. "He's going to start reflecting, making some calls, organizing how his life is going to be."

Carmona's lawyer, Juan Martin Echeverria, said the 60-year-old businessman likely will move to a third country.

Rebellion

Carmona was charged with rebellion in connection with the April coup. Chavez has labeled him a fugitive of Venezuelan law, but announced on Monday that he would be allowed to leave.

Carmona's departure from the country avoids a messy trial as Chavez tries to pull together a country traumatized by coup violence. Chavez's position is in line with the more conciliatory attitude he's been taking with domestic critics since the coup.

Colombian President Andres Pastrana told reporters Wednesday he hoped his country's acceptance of Carmona will not affect relations with Venezuela, Colombia's most important business partner after the United States.

Yet, in a letter to Bula, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Luis Alfonso Davila was irritated by the decision.

"Is it right to grant political asylum when what is involved are crimes that sought to overthrow a democratically and constitutionally elected government?" Davila asked.

Coup

Colombia was one of the few Latin American nations to applaud Chavez's ouster on April 12, calling Carmona a "good friend" and expressing hope for improved relations under his rule. Venezuela and Colombia had sparred over allegations that the left-leaning Chavez supports Colombian rebels—charges Chavez denies.

Carmona's stay in Colombia may be brief. Carmona's lawyer, Juan Martin Echeverria, said his client likely will move to a third country.

A small Colombian Air Force plane brought Carmona from Caracas, Venezuela, to Bogota.

Carmona stepped onto the tarmac of Bogota's military airport after a one-and-a-half hour flight from Caracas. Venezuelan television showed him being greeted and led away by unidentified civilian and military officials.

Carmona did not make any public statements. He was whisked away by car, then taken to the apartment in a three-car caravan. *AP*

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GLS Gas M/T	705,000	100,000	28,301	20,190
Gas A/T	740,000	100,000	29,706	21,192
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	100,000	28,903	20,620
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	114,000	30,911	22,051
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Gas A/T	790,000	123,000	31,713	22,624

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Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	*27,917	19,290	10,980	7,745
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	*29,375	*19,583	11,207	7,918
Gas A/T	740,000	370,000	*30,833	*20,556	11,593	8,189
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	*30,000	*20,000	11,373	8,034
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	*32,083	*21,389	12,405	8,786
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Calls grow in Europe to block immigrants

LONDON—Is Europe preparing to haul up the drawbridge?

Across the continent, right-wing parties have surged at the polls by exploiting fears of a rising tide of immigrants and refugees—and mainstream politicians are echoing their concerns and their rhetoric.

As Britain and France argued over hundreds of illegal migrants attempting to reach England through the Channel Tunnel, Iain Duncan Smith, leader of Britain's opposition Conservatives, said last week that "not one . . . should be allowed to set foot in Britain."

Blair

Center-left Prime Minister Tony Blair is considering making aid to countries like Somalia, Sri Lanka and Turkey contingent on their promising to take back rejected asylum seekers. And according to newspaper reports citing a leaked government memo, he also is looking at a plan to use warships to intercept boats smuggling illegal immigrants.

"Tony Blair is reacting to election results in Europe," said Peer Baneke, general secretary of the London-based European Council on Refugees and Exiles.

Baneke was referring chiefly to the strong showing by anti-immigrant politicians Jean-Marie Le Pen in France's presidential election, and Pim Fortuyn of the Netherlands. Fortuyn was assassinated ahead of the parliamentary election, but his party still scored enough votes to have a shot at joining the next governing coalition.

Now a growing number of European leaders are saying that to forestall this anti-foreigner surge, they must come up with a tougher joint policy of their own to choke off illegal migration and stop migrants "asylum shopping" for the most generous host country.

Clampdown

After a meeting in London last week, Blair and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said European nations must work together to strengthen controls of the continent's external borders and crack down on people-smuggling gangs.

"We're not advocating a 'fortress Europe,' but what we are saying is there's got to be some order and some rules brought into the system whereby people come into Europe," Blair said.

EU interior ministers gather in Rome on Thursday in hopes of making a modest start to sorting out their various immigration and asylum rules. Among ideas on the agenda are an EU border police force and use of satellites to track illegal immigrants. **AP**

FBI admits it might have been able to uncover 9/11 attacks

85TH BIRTHDAY REUTERS/JFK LIBRARY

Former US President John F. Kennedy is seen in this undated White House file photo. May 29 marks the 85th anniversary of President Kennedy's birth.

WASHINGTON—FBI Director Robert Mueller said Wednesday there could have been more missed clues before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and suggested for the first time that investigators might have uncovered the plot if they had been more diligent about pursuing leads.

"The jury is still out on all of it," Mueller said, during a wide-ranging, two-hour interview at Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters. "Looking at it right now, I can't say for sure it would not have, that there wasn't a possibility that we could have come across some lead that would have led us to the hijackers."

Mueller noted two documents Wednesday that he said might have tipped authorities to terrorist plans for suicide hijackings, including efforts by an unidentified Middle Eastern country, where US sales are restricted, to buy a commercial flight simulator.

Mueller's remarks came amid his announcement about a broad reorganization of the nation's premier law enforcement agency responding, at least partly, to criticisms about the FBI after the attacks. The director is moving hundreds of agents—mostly from drug investigations—to focus on terrorism and prevent future attacks. The FBI's top new marching orders will focus on terrorists, spies and hackers, in that order.

Mueller's candid statement represented the first time any senior official in the Bush administration has allowed that counterterrorism investigators might have detected and averted the Sept. 11 hijackings if they had recognized clues they were collecting. That question is the focus of an ongoing congressional inquiry, and is almost certain to come up next week during Judiciary Committee hearings on the FBI's plans.

"Putting all the pieces together, who is to say?" Mueller said, though he also noted that those pieces amount to "snippets in a veritable river of information." Attorney General John Ashcroft said the time had come to change the "structure, culture and mission" of the agency.

President George W. Bush has bristled over suggestions that the government knew enough to avert the attacks. "Had I known that the enemy was going to use airplanes to kill on that fateful morning, I would have done everything in my power to protect the American people," Bush said earlier this month.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, praised the reorganization, saying "the FBI is now in a position to implement fully operational changes that will substantially improve the FBI's ability to investigate and prevent terrorism."

The FBI disclosed two other clues Wednesday that it said might be relevant to the investigation into the September hijackings. A Middle Eastern country where US shipments are restricted sought unsuccessfully before Sept. 11 to buy a commercial flight simulator, and an FBI pilot in 1998 expressed concerns to a supervisor in Oklahoma City about a number of Arab men seeking flight training, he said.

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Priest to renew wedding vows

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—To dramatize their demand for optional celibacy among the clergy, a priest will renew his marriage vows today before a fellow priest who himself is a father of two.

Fr. Hector Canto, 41, will observe the fourth anniversary of his marriage to Cynthia Diamante today, by re-staging the controversial wedding that openly challenged the rule of celibacy for Catholic priests.

The rites will take place 3 p.m. at the Shrine of Mount Zion in Balaguiao, Lambunao town, 48 kilometers from here, site of their controversial wedding in 1998.

Unlike the first time, today's affair is more private. This means there will be no television cameras to film the wedding, and no live coverage on radio.

But Canto said he would wear his clerical vestments during the ceremony, just like he did when he first wed Diamante.

"It will be a simple renewal of vows just like the way we have been celebrating our wedding anniversary in the past years," he said.

Among the witnesses in their renewal of wedding vows is Opcel Marie, their one-year and five-month-old daughter, whose first name is short for "optional celibacy."

To officiate the renewal of their vows is Fr. Jesus Siva, who presided over the controversial wedding four years ago.

The late Archbishop Alberto Piamonte of Jaro imposed an "automatic suspension" on Canto and suspended the priestly faculties of Siva.

Local church authorities said Canto needed to ask for a dispensation to cease functioning as a priest. Siva's suspension has limited his functions to hearing confessions and administering the Sacrament of the Sick when no priest is available.

The Archdiocese of Jaro has also taken the position of ignoring the statements issued by Canto and Siva.

Still, Siva and Canto continue to say Mass.

Siva, who is living with his common law wife and their two children, said he still considers himself a priest.

Celibacy, he added, is an abnormality because priests "cannot control human nature."

Siva said while he could not speak for others, they believed that there were many Catholic priests who had sexual relationships with women.

"Father Canto and I are not hypocrites. We have the courage to come out in the open," said Siva.

"We already have celibacy for a thousand years and it doesn't work. Why don't we go back to married priesthood," said Canto.

Siva said the recent Church controversies like sex crimes, including pedophilia, should make the Catholic Church rethink its position on celibacy and confront sexual abuse in the ranks of the clergy.

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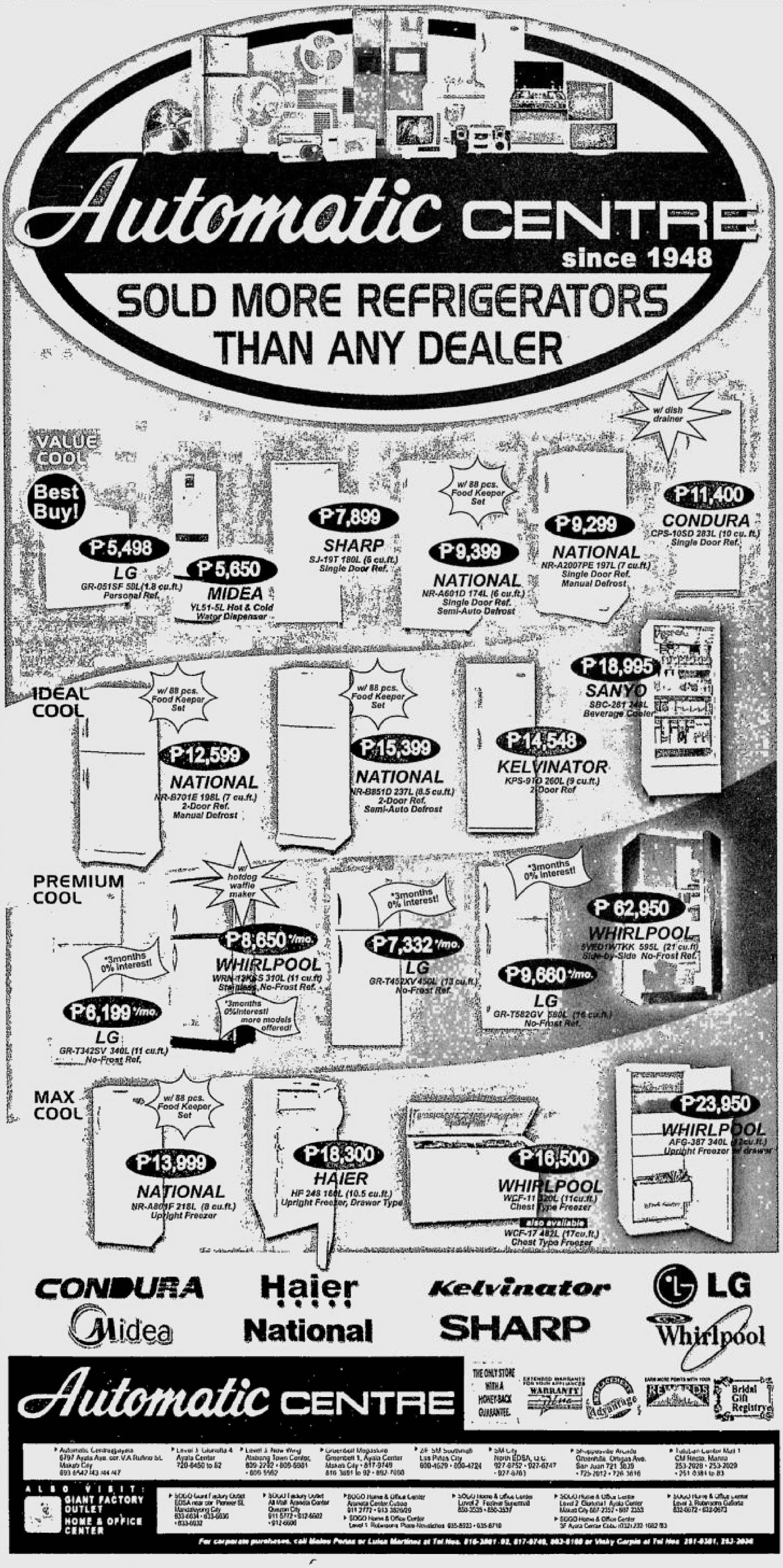
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Kidnap raps filed vs 2 Cebu cops

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Charges of kidnapping-for-ransom were filed yesterday against the chief of the police Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) here and his subordinate before the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas (OMB-Visayas) for allegedly abducting two suspected drug peddlers on Monday.

The National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force in the Visayas (Naktaf) filed the charges against Senior Insp. Nicolas Salvador and PO3 Razul Segismar.

The complaint was based on the affidavits executed by the police operatives who conducted the entrapment operation on Tuesday that led to the arrest of Salvador and Segismar.

The affidavits of the alleged victims—Melgev Duterte and his cousin John Ledesma—as well as Duterte's half-sister, Liza Toledo, were also submitted to support the complaint.

Toledo claimed that she negotiated with the policemen who demanded P5 million in ransom and five kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) in exchange for releasing Duterte and Ledesma.

Virginia Palanca-Santiago, OMB-Visayas director, gave the respondents five days to file their counter-affidavits. Salvador and Segimar were detained at the Naktaf office pending the resolution of the case.

The two earlier denied the allegations, saying they temporarily detained Duterte and Ledesma inside a motel pending a follow up operation for the arrest of Toledo whom they claimed was a high-level drug pusher.

In her affidavit, Toledo said the suspects told her to produce P5 million and five kilos of shabu before midnight on Monday in exchange for the release of Duterte and Ledesma.

Toledo said she asked the suspects to reconsider their demand because she could not produce the amount and she did not have any shabu.

But, she said, the policemen identified themselves as members of a police intelligence group.

"They let me choose that if I would not comply with their demand, they would either kill my brother and cousin or charge my brother and cousin with violation of the Dangerous Drugs Acts," she said.

Mayor, vice mayor ordered arrested

JONES, Isabela—A judge in Echague town has ordered the arrest of the top two officials here for their alleged involvement in the ghost purchase of P180,000 worth of office supplies for the municipal government in 2000.

Judge Bonifacio Ong of the Echague regional trial court on Tuesday issued the arrest warrants against Mayor Florante Raspado and Vice Mayor Arnulfo Colobong. He ordered the two officials to post P40,000 bail bond each.

The warrants were issued more than a month after Raspado and Colobong assumed their positions. Raspado, the former vice mayor of Jones, assumed the mayoral post after Jones Mayor Jesus Sebastian Jr. was gunned down on April 22. Colobong, the top councilor in the town, assumed the vice mayoral post when Raspado took his oath of office.

The case stemmed from criminal and administrative complaints filed by former Councilor Rodrigo Manuel for Raspado and Colobong's alleged involvement in the ghost purchase of office supplies at the vice mayor's office.

The administrative case is pending before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Chief Insp. Eduardo Bayani, Jones police chief, said the arrest warrants against Raspado and Colobong have yet to be served as the two officials were in Metro Manila.

Manuel, in his complaint, cited an audit report of State Auditor Juliet Macato on Aug. 21, 2000 that "there were no office supplies as indicated in the sales invoices and records of inspection." ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Whistleblower judge faces perjury raps

BAGUIO CITY—The regional trial court judge, who blew the whistle on alleged immorality and corruption implicating six of his colleagues in Baguio, is now facing one of four counter suits from the people he had accused.

Judge Ruben Ayson was accused of perjury by Judge Clarence Villanueva in a criminal suit he filed before the city prosecutor's office this week, said Octavio Banta, acting city prosecutor.

"I have decided not to touch this case or any new case involving the warring judges, so we are transmitting it for resolution to (lawyer Nonnatus Cesar) Rojas, the regional prosecutor assigned to Northern Luzon. All of us (Baguio prosecutors) have inhibited ourselves from these controversies," he told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

Court sources said three more cases are being prepared against Ayson—all perjury charges that refute Ayson's evidence, which were presented in a 90-page dossier to Court of Appeals Associate Justice Josefina Salonga this month.

Under court scrutiny are Baguio Executive Judge Antonio Reyes and deputy Executive Judge Edilberto Claravall, who are both on leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

Also under investigation are Judges Villanueva and Amado Caguioa.

Ayson belatedly included in his charge sheet Pasig City RTC Judge Abraham Borreta, who was reassigned from Baguio, and Baguio RTC Judge Antonio Esteves.

Ayson had named Villanueva among the Baguio judges he claimed had gambled and caroused inside the Baguio Justice Hall on Sept. 27 last year, while several courts were in session. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Cotabato bombing suspects arrested

COTABATO CITY—Police in Midsayap, Cotabato yesterday said the two men they arrested in a remote village on May 20 were the main suspects in the explosion inside the town's public market about two weeks ago.

Chief Insp. Raul Supiter, Midsayap police chief, said Guiabel Kamsa and Daud Masulot, who were arrested during a raid in Barangay Tugal, were believed to be behind the May 16 explosion that injured at least nine people, including a police officer.

Supiter did not say how the two became the suspects, but said they were members of a bandit group led by a certain Tubog Pulalon, which is engaged in extortion.

Supiter said the raid was originally aimed at Pulalon, but when the team arrived in Tugal, the bandit leader was not around.

He said Kamsa and Masulot were inside their hideout when the raiding team swooped down.

Supiter said recovered from the suspects were a handgun and a fragmentation grenade.

In General Santos City, police have released copies of a sketch of Basit Usman, the man who allegedly placed the powerful explosive that killed at least 15 people inside the Fitmart Shopping Center there on April 21. ***Charlie C. Señase and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Lightning kills 6 in Aklan

LIBACAO, Aklan—Six persons, including a seven-year-old girl, were killed while 10 others suffered burns on Wednesday noon after they were hit by lightning while on their way home after attending a fiesta.

Killed were Roland Zabala, 19; Felmar Foremento, 18; Michael Zolina, 25; April Zorillia, 7; Ranie Zorillia, 16; and Genly Naelgas, 15.

All, except for Naelgas, were from Libacao town. Naelgas was a resident of Barangay Ongsod, Banga town.

The victims, along with four others, were seeking cover from the rain at a store's awning when the lightning struck. Apparently, the lightening was drawn to April's pendant, which was made of a used bullet.

The 10 who suffered minor burns were brought to the Rafael S. Tumbokon Hospital in the capital town of Kalibo, some 24 kilometers from here. ***Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau***

CONGRATULATIONS!

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LUPA'T BAHAY BAGONG BUHAY 2

Second Preliminary Draw Winners

North Luzon	South Luzon 1	West Visayas
1st Prize - Alfredo Abaco Suyo, Ilocos Sur	1st Prize - Perla Dimacuha Batangas City	1st Prize - Soahana Tunogbanua Bacolod City
2nd Prize - Dalisay Aquino Baguio City	2nd Prize - Magdalena Balanday Sta. Rosa, Laguna	2nd Prize - Jay Perez Iloilo City
3rd Prize - Rary Finatec Baguio City	3rd Prize - Dennyfer Advincula Cavite City	3rd Prize - Sonia Banniso Dumalag, Capiz
Central Luzon	**South Luzon 2**	**North Mindanao**
1st Prize - Rebecca Lago Olongapo City	1st Prize - Chona Otilla Legazpi City	1st Prize - Jessie Palarca Cagayan De Oro City
2nd Prize - Alfredo Culannay San Jose City	2nd Prize - Mary Anne Carranceja Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte	2nd Prize - Aurora Navarro Surigao City
3rd Prize - Yolanda David San Fernando, Pampanga	3rd Prize - Floancia Cabilao Lucena City	3rd Prize - Tessie Labisig Sibutad, Zamboanga Del Norte
GMA	**East Visayas**	**South Mindanao**
1st Prize - Merly Ranara Taguig, Manila	1st Prize - Elpidia Fajardo Cebu City	1st Prize - Amelie Alocilja Cotabato City
2nd Prize - Marlon Ching Tondo, Manila	2nd Prize - Gemma Fumar Alangalang, Leyte	2nd Prize - Francisco Quintas, Jr. Zamboanga City
3rd Prize - Liwayway Aranas Sta. Mesa, Manila	3rd Prize - Maria Ganados Loon, Bohol	3rd Prize - Rosebella Tampipi Davao City

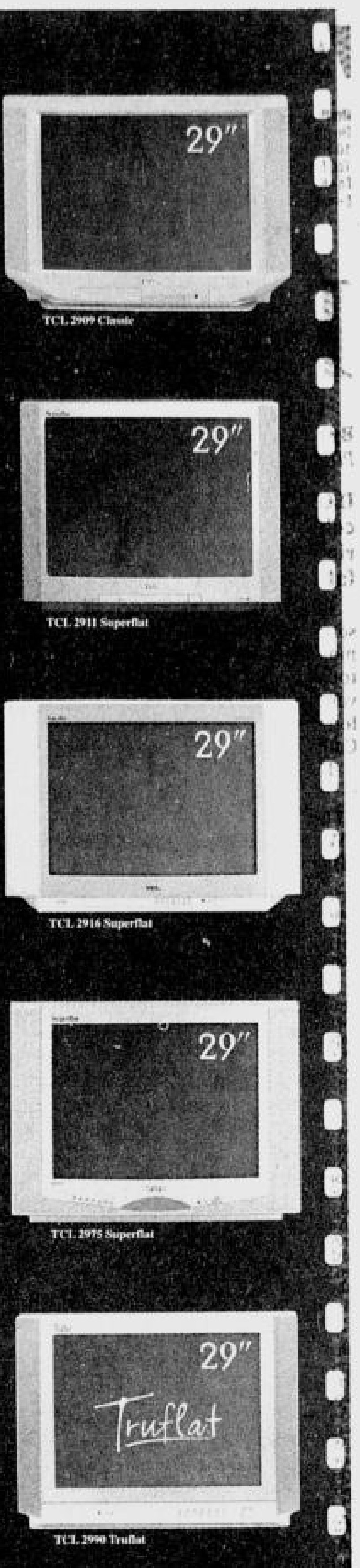
1st Prize - Entertainment Showcase • 2nd Prize - Kitchen Showcase • 3rd Prize - Living Room Showcase

All non-winning entries still qualify for the Grand Draw.

'Wag magpahuli! Limang lupa't bahay at limang Mitsubishi Adventure ang pwede pang mapanalunan sa July 5, 2002 Grand Draw!

Send your entries by June 28, 2002 to qualify for the Grand Draw on July 5, 2002. Join our growing list of winners!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0156, Series of 2002



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MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

Allow me to extend my warmest greetings to the management and staff of the **Philippine Bed and Furniture Manufacturing Corporation** on the occasion of your *75th Year Anniversary.*

I congratulate this company for the years of meritorious service to the Filipino people and for being an active participant in the development of our local bed and furniture industry. This year's event is a fortuitous opportunity to celebrate your achievements and to strengthen your commitment in giving total satisfaction to your customer's needs.

In view of the fast-paced changes that is sweeping the world, looking ahead and making the best of possibilities that the industry has to offer will definitely be to our country's advantage. I welcome this event as an opportunity to further develop the knowledge and skills needed to transform our vision of a global economy into reality. May this gathering encourage all stakeholders in the industry to exert greater efforts in hastening productivity in order to gain substantive progress in our country through the development of the bed and furniture industry.

I wish the continued success of the **Philippine Bed and Furniture Manufacturing Corporation** and urge everyone to persevere in your dedication of offering top quality products that will earn more acclamations from all over the world. May all of you continue with the efforts to provide the necessary support, service and technology needed to build a strong foundation for growth and progress.

More power and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

MANILA
31 May 2002

dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

MESSAGE

Our warmest greetings to the management and staff of the **Philippine Bed and Furniture Manufacturing Corporation** as you celebrate your **Diamond Anniversary** on 31 May 2002.

It is heartening to note that from its humble beginnings 75 years ago in 1927, with only a single building in Soler St., Sta. Cruz as its operating base, this enterprise has evolved into a top manufacturer and distributor of world class beds, mattresses and other innovative furniture products, furnishings and accessories in the Philippine market. Moreover, the various local and international awards of excellence it has received speak very well indeed of the high premium the company attaches to total customer satisfaction.

This growth, progress and prosperity attest to what a Philippine company can achieve through hard work, determination, a forward-looking business outlook, a sense of purpose and mission, and deep commitment to product excellence, high quality standards and outstanding customer service. Your success story should serve as a shining reaffirmation that indeed, Philippine enterprises have what it takes to make it in any endeavor.

We are confident that the company will continue offering only top quality products that comply with government rules and regulations including product standards, providing its clientele with the best quality and value for money that the market could offer, and widening the options available to Filipino consumers. Likewise, we hope that the company continues to support government efforts in the control, prevention and elimination of unfair, unscrupulous and anomalous trade practices in all shapes and shades. All these are imperative in an increasingly competitive borderless global economy.

To the **Philippine Bed and Furniture Manufacturing Corporation**, our sincere congratulations and best wishes for continuing success.

Mabuhay!

MAR Roxas
MAR Roxas
Secretary

4th Floor, Industry and Investments Building, 385 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati 1200 Philippines
Tel. Nos. (632)899-7450 ; Fax Number (632) 896-1166; http://www.dti.gov.ph; e-mail:MARoxas@dti.gov.ph

MESSAGE

My brothers and I, early in our young life, saw our father, **Santos Chua Haw Ko**, single-handedly start **Philippine Bed** in 1927. He nurtured his company through hard work and frugality.

His dedication to product quality and durability in order to give more value to his customers was behind the company's manufacturing technology - from hand-crafted processes to the highly mechanized operations that have produced **Philippine Bed's** quality mattresses and bedding today.

My brother and I went to Germany and the United States to learn more about the bedding technology and acquired state-of-the-art equipment at that time. And we echoed this technology to our people and trained them to be multi-skilled.

We, also, learned from our father the value of recognizing the efforts of our people through just and fair treatment, even if they have long retired.

And lastly, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our customers who have patronized **Philippine Bed** products over these years.

Catalino Chua
CATALINO T. CHUA
Chairman of the Board & President

MESSAGE

My father, gave us, his children, the legacy of hard work, frugality, dedication to product quality and durability and recognition of employees' efforts.

Hard work is the driving force that has guided us all these years in the management of **Philippine Bed** operations. We believe that putting more quality time for planning, organizing, leading and controlling the company's operations will sustain **Philippine Bed's** competitive advantage. And frugality and living within our means have kept the company financially capable of sustaining its short-term as well as long-term growth objectives.

Our dedication to product quality and durability to give more value to our customers, have been our research and development policy. Over these years, this policy has guided us in our product innovation and development efforts, which had been intentionally recognized when in 1989 Philippine Bed was awarded the *"XIV International Award for Best Trade Name"* in Madrid, Spain and the *"IX International Asia Award"* in London, Great Britain. The company has been named *"The Most Outstanding Bed and Furniture Manufacturer"*, in 1989, 1990, 1998, 1999 and 2000 by the **Consumers' Union of the Philippines** and in 1999, 2000 and 2001 by the **Parangal ng Bayan.**

Above all, we believe that without our customers' patronage we could not have sustained our competitive advantage over these years. And to you our dear customers we extend our most heartfelt gratitude.

HERMAN L. CHUA
General Manager

"WE STARTED IT ALL"

PHILIPPINE BED

Seventy-five years in the business... the foundation that makes **Philippine Bed and Furniture Manufacturing Corp.** the pillar in the bedding industry. Prestige, a word synonymous to its name has been achieved through generations of total commitment, the edge that makes them stand above the rest.

Pioneering in the industry is not just a simple claim. It is more than just starting ahead. Ever since, they have been guided by one basic principle - *"providing superior quality and elegantly designed beds which are affordable to the consumers".* Hence, each and every product carries the mark of excellence which was honed by years of experience - the very essence of **Philippine Bed's** staying power.

A SALUTE TO THE COUNTRY'S FINEST

Philippine Bed and Furniture Manufacturing Corporation supplies only the best sleep sets. It is the maker of **AMBASSADOR Bed** *"The Choice of Five Star Hotels"* such as the Manila Hotel, Mandarin Oriental, New World Hotel, Discovery Suites and Pan Pacific Hotel which has imported damask fabric and **Ultra Care** seal of protection. Also, the company is the licensee and exclusive distributor of **RESTONIC Mattress USA**, which is a five-time "Best Buy" awardee by the **Consumers' Digest Magazine USA** for its *Marvelous Middle.*

A proud member of the prestigious **International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), Philippine Bed** has garnered numerous awards both here and abroad. In 1989, the company was awarded the *"XIV International Award for Best Trade Name"* in Madrid, Spain and the *"IX International Asia Award"* in London, Great Britain. ***A Hall of Famer*** as the *"Most Outstanding Bed and Furniture Manufacturer"* granted by the **Consumers' Union of the Philippines** and a **Parangal ng Bayan Awardee** for the same title. And this year, they are awarded the **Alay kay Inay Awardee** as the *"Most Outstanding Manufacturer of Bed".*

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE COMPANY'S EXCELLENCE

Established in 1927, the then named Philippine Bed Factory was owned by **Santos Chua Haw Ko,** a native of Mainland China. He was also a distributor of *Simmons*, a popular mattress in the USA.

In 1958, Mr. Chua became president of the Philippine Chamber of Industries, now the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Today, **Mr. Herman L. Chua,** grandson and General Manager of **Philippine Bed and Furniture Manufacturing Corporation,** continues its 75 years of deep-seated commitment to provide quality products and services for all its satisfied clienteles.

THE COMPANY'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

PHILIPPINE BED
RESTONIC
PHILIPPINE BED
HOSPICIO DE SAN JOSE

Turn-over of donated beds to Hospicio De San Jose May 18, 2002

Philippine Bed has been very grateful to its consumers who have been supporting the company through the years. As a gratitude and recognizing its role in society, the company is celebrating its **75th Anniversary** with a **Commitment Certificate.** With this, **Philippine Bed** will do express delivery for free, seven days a week within Metro Manila. Upon delivery of the new set, the customer has the option to donate their old ones and Philippine Bed will repair them for free and donate them to any charitable institutions under the name of the former owners.

Moreover, **Philippine Bed** has an on-going raffle promo billed as **"75th Diamond Anniversary Extravaganza"** on June 14 offering a big showcase of prizes. This is **Philippine Bed's** way of thanking their valuable customers who have supported and have been supporting them for years.

BED FAC
and furniture STO

Circa 1940: WWII Post-War Bldg., Azcarraga, now called C.M. Recto Ave., Manila

Present: Philippine Bed's main office 78 Quirino Highway Balintawak, Quezon City

Consumers' Union of the Philippines HALL OF FAMER *(1989, 1990, 1998, 1999 & 2000)*

IX International Asia Award *(London 1989)*

XIV International Award Best Trade Name *(Spain 1989)*

Three (3) Time Parangal ng Bayan Awardee MOST OUTSTANDING BED & FURNITURE MANUFACTURER *(1999, 2000 & 2001)*

22nd Alay Kay Inay Awardee "Most Outstanding Manufacturer of Bed" *(2002)*

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SEE ENTERPRISES

Iloilo coalition formed vs power rates

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Ilonggos opposed to high power rates on Wednesday formed a broad coalition to demand the scrapping of Republic Act 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reforms Act of 2001 and the controversial purchased power adjustment (PPA).

Calling their group People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power of Iloilo), the coalition was composed of militant groups, lawyers, health workers, religious and civic organizations, public officials and consumer groups.

Power of Iloilo is also opposing the petition of the Panay Electric Company (Peco) for a 36-centavo per kilowatt-hour increase in electricity rates.

Jeffrey Celiz, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Panay, said the coalition would spearhead the protest actions of Ilonggos amid the growing uproar against high electricity costs.

Bayan and other militant organizations have been holding signature campaigns in shopping malls, markets, offices, communities and schools to drumbeat opposition to the PPA even after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the reduction of the PPA by P1.25 per kWh.

"For too long, the power monopolies in connivance with some high officials of the land have abused the Filipino consumers and have earned super-profits from their highly monopolistic business activities," said Bishop Gaspar Bañez of the Iglesia Filipina de Independiente.

Bañez said the PPA charge in Panay is at least P2 per kWh, which accounts for nearly half of the monthly bill of power consumers.

The PPA is an automatic cost recovery mechanism set up by the National Power Corporation (Napocor) and distribution utilities to cover fluctuations in fuel prices, power costs, and foreign exchange rates.

Bañez warned that "malpractices and abuses" of the Napocor and private power firms would worsen under R.A. 9136.

"Our people's overload of very expensive electricity rates, manipulation and overcharging of monthly billings . . . will become institutionalized . . ." he said.

"An immoral contract is not a binding one," said Rev. Fr. Meliton Oso, director of the Jaro Archdiocesan social action center, referring to contracts entered into by the government and independent power producers that have been criticized as onerous.

The various groups and individuals vowed to oppose the petition for a 36-centavo per kWh increase filed by Peco before the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

Peco is the sole power distributor in Iloilo City's 180 baranggays. It has been under fire from consumers for unannounced power interruptions and alleged inefficient service.

The Iloilo City council last week unanimously passed a resolution, calling for the transfer of the venue of the public hearing on Peco's petition set on June 7 from the ERC office in Pasig City, Manila to Iloilo City.

"The hearing should be held here where the affected consumers are . . . otherwise it would be a *moro-moro,*" said Iloilo City Councilor Arman Parcon, the sponsor of the resolution and chair of the committee on transportation and other public utilities.

Peace caravan launched

SURIGAO CITY—Following the example set by President Macapagal-Arroyo in promoting tourism in the country, local government officials in Mindanao launched the Mindanao Caravan for Peace here yesterday.

The government-initiated caravan would tour the island's eastern part including Davao City in an effort to boost tourism.

Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers told the INQUIRER that even in the midst of violence and conflict in some parts of the island, "it is about time to recognize and savor the island's tourism destinations."

"I am confident that after this caravan, Eastern Mindanao will be one of the anchored destinations," Barbers said.

Dorothy Jean Pabayo, Northern Mindanao tourism director, said the caravan aims to change Mindanao's image from that of a war-torn area to a place for tourism.

"We want to make a statement especially in our neighboring countries belonging to the (East Asean Growth Area) that most parts of Mindanao remain peaceful," Pabayo said.

Cynthia Lazo, director of the Bureau of Domestic Tourism Promotions here, said she hopes that the participants in the caravan would talk about their experience and draw more visitors to the island.

Initially, 25 vehicles, mostly vans, left Surigao City while other participants joined each time the caravan stops in the region's cities and provinces.

The participants toured historical areas and other tourism destinations such as Lake Mainit, which stretches from Jabonga, Agusan del Norte, to Mainit in Surigao del Norte.

By the time it reaches Cagayan de Oro, there would be at least 75 vehicles in the caravan as more participants were expected to arrive from Butuan City. ***Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Cop's relief puzzles Capiz folk

By Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—The relief of Senior Supt. Allyn Evasco Jr. as acting Capiz police chief effective May 27 continues to puzzle a number of Capiceños.

Evasco was barely three months in his post when reportedly informed by Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, police director for Western Visayas, in mid-May that he would be relieved.

There has been no official explanation on why Evasco, a native of Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental, was removed from his post. Senior Supt. Efren Quintos replaced Evasco effective Monday.

Evasco was designated as Capiz police chief on March 1, replacing Senior Supt. Orlando Pestaño, a Capiceño who had been in his post for three years before he was assigned to Camp Crame.

Normally, a provincial police director is allowed to stay in his post for two years.

Capiz Gov. Vicente Bermejo confirmed that Garcia personally went to see him about two weeks ago to discuss Evasco's relief.

The governor said Evasco's relief could have something to do with an illegal gambling case in Iloilo. He did not elaborate.

In a phone interview, Evasco denied his relief had anything to do with illegal gambling. When asked to comment about his relief, he begged off, saying his superiors might get mad at him.

WEATHER FORECAST

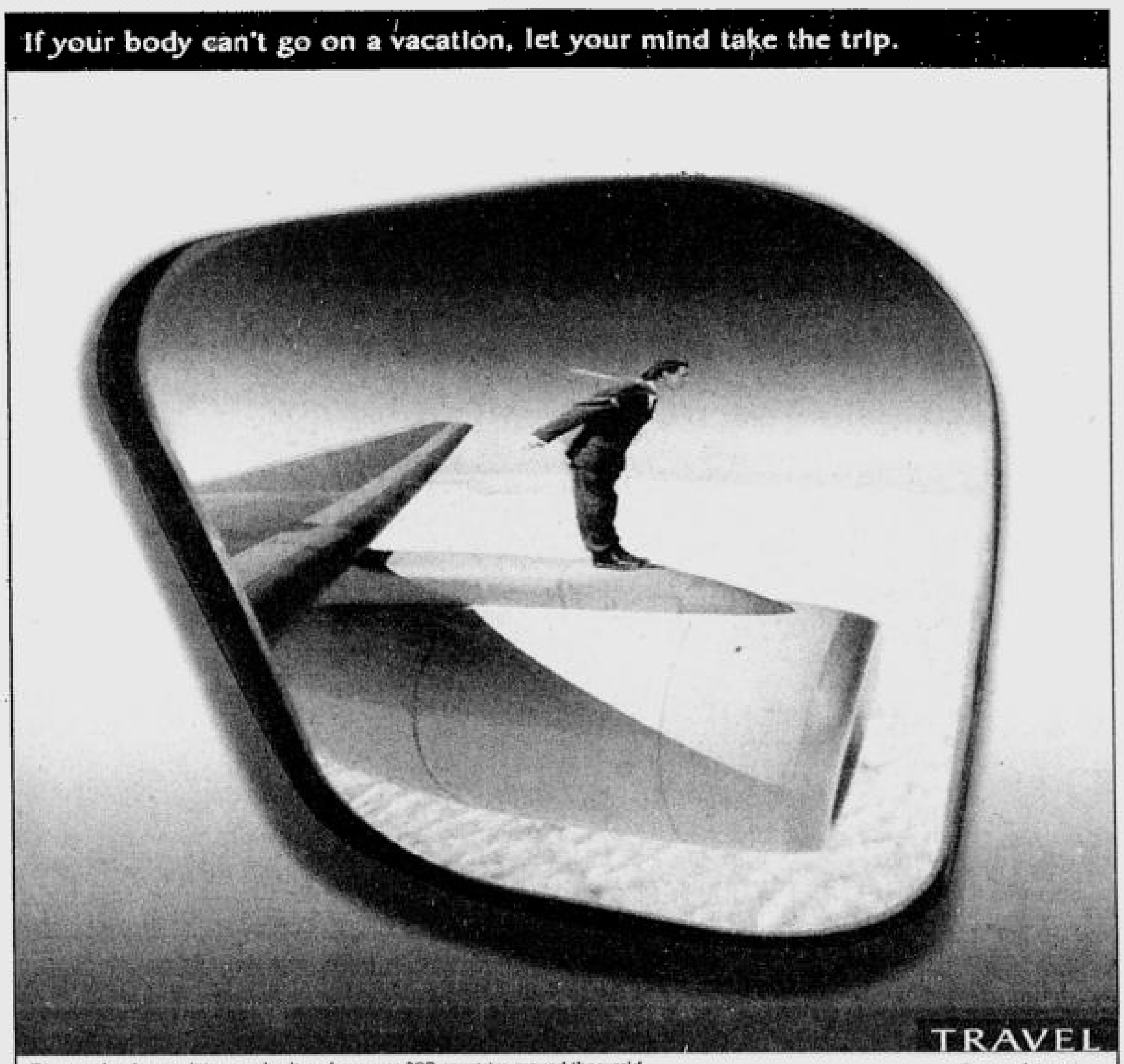
FORECAST: Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 21° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/31/02

If your body can't go on a vacation, let your mind take the trip.



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Justice Narciso S. Nario Sr.
Justice Rodolfo G. Palattao
Pasay City Mayor "Peewee" Trinidad
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza (Manila)
MMDA Chairman Benjamin Abalos
and many others....

Product Awardees:
(Partial List)

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Sanyo (Phils.) Inc.
Unilever Phils
Splash Manufacturing Corp.
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Arcefoods Corp.
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Chowking
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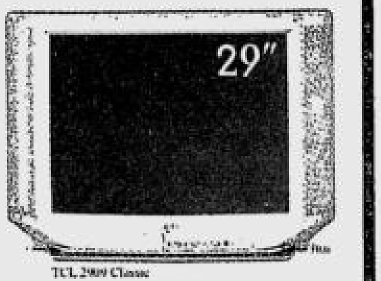
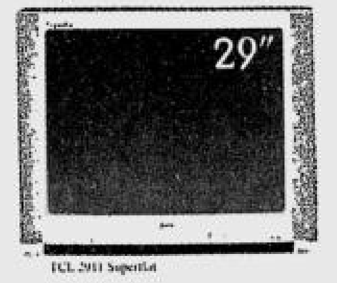
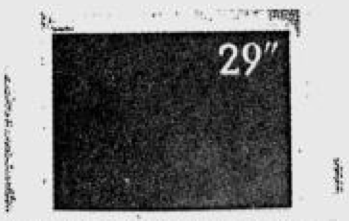


TCL 2909 Classic



TCL 2911 Superflat



TCL 2916 Superflat

TCL 2975 Superflat

TCL 2990 Truflat

TCL
Technology that Conquers Limitations

CA orders arrest of GMA's adviser

From page A1

ailing brother in the United States. But she did not disclose to the CA what her brother's ailment was. A source close to the Climaco family said, however, that the presidential adviser did not have a brother but a sister in San Francisco, California, who works as a nurse.

Liongson said he did not make it the first time because he was ill and the second time because he was in the United States. He failed to give the CA committee any explanation for his absences on May 21 and 29, however.

If Climaco and Liongson are still abroad, "they would be arrested the moment they step on Philippine soil," Angara said.

"And if they fail to appear anew on Monday and are arrested while we are on recess, they will remain under arrest until we reconvene for our third regular session on July 22," he added.

Piatco connection

Piatco's contract to build Naia 3 is being opposed by the MIA-Naia Airport Service Operators (or Maso, an association of airport concessionaires) and 11 other groups. Piatco is 70 percent owned by the German airport management company Fraport AG, which is currently constructing the airport terminal inside Villamor Air Base.

Signed on July 21, 1997, the contract—now valued at an estimated $650 million—underwent major changes during the term of deposed President Joseph Estrada. It was amended on Nov. 26, 1998, and supplemented twice, in August 1999 and September 2000.

The September 2000 supplement gave Piatco the right to subcontract the disposition, demolition and removal of waste material. Piatco exercised its right by awarding the job to Wintrack Builders, a firm Alvarez formed in October 1999.

In September 2001, Maso filed a P76-million plunder case against Alvarez, for allegedly overpricing parts of the terminal's construction through Wintrack, at a time when he was one of the vice chairs of the House committee on transportation and communication.

Alvarez has maintained that it was his wife Emelita who owned part of Wintrack, and that she had divested her 30-percent share before his appointment as transportation secretary.

Last December, however, the House transportation committee upheld the validity of Piatco's contract. At about the same time, Climaco, newly appointed to her post, was reported as preparing to renegotiate the contract.

Climaco was once chair of SGV, the top accounting firm.

According to Handelsblatt, a German financial newspaper closely following the Naia 3 project, "Climaco has a reputation for probity and incorruptibility." The German press sees the Naia 3 contract as Fraport's "first prestige project in Asia."

The Senate opposition believes Climaco uncovered anomalies in the contract during the period of review, but Alvarez has maintained the contract remains aboveboard.

Former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay, now chair of Maso, whose members are Naia Terminal 1 concessionaires who will be displaced by Piatco's Terminal 3, said at a press conference two weeks ago that Liongson was "dummy material.

"We have reason to believe he is a dummy for corrupt government officials," he said.

Bandits say $5-M reward boosts their egos

From page A1

tional terrorism. As a matter of fact, they have done it in Pakistan and other places," Guingona said.

He said the DFA had yet to be furnished details on how the US Department of State's Rewards for Justice Program would be implemented in the country.

In a statement issued late yesterday afternoon, the DFA said "it is possible that there may be some subsidiary issues" that it might have to "study or clarify" during the implementation of the reward program.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said only "the very narrow-minded" would think that the reward offer impinged on Philippine sovereignty.

Golez said he considered the US action as part of the "international cooperation" to fight terrorism. "Let's not forget that the Abu Sayyaf is holding two Americans (Martin and Gracia Burnham) and has killed an American (Guillermo Sobero)," he told RMN. "Maybe if that happened to us, we would act the same way."

Golez said the US government had long wanted to put up the reward, but had to wait for a budgetary allocation. He reiterated that there was "prior consultation" before the announcement was made.

Additional

At his regular briefing yesterday, Afable said the US offer was "just an additional reward system" that would "definitely be a boost to the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf."

"We already have a P100-million reward system that has been in place for a long time," he said, and noted that "when you offer reward money, of course it will improve the chances (of capture)."

Golez echoed this statement, saying "maybe we really need a bigger reward to induce people to give information."

He said that while the Philippine reward system had "successfully resulted in the capture and death of some Abu Sayyaf members," the leaders of the group were still at large.

US Embassy spokesperson Frank Jenista was quoted as saying that apart from the money, the US government was willing to help Filipino informants resettle in the United States or another country.

Afable said President Macapagal-Arroyo was scheduled today to visit Basilan, the base of the Abu Sayyaf.

But even as the planned visit appeared to be timed with Ediborah's supposed imminent release, Afable said it had "no relation to the security situation or to the Balikatan."

Eligible

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez told reporters that practically everyone was eligible for the reward offer announced by US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, including vigilante groups.

"We do not call upon vigilante groups to take the law into their own hands," he said. "But in the event that they capture the Abu Sayyaf leaders, they should not kill them but surrender them unharmed."

He also said "bounty hunters from abroad" would not be allowed to come to the country just to take a crack at the reward.

Perez conceded that the reward offer could entice even relatives of the bandit leaders to inform on them.

"This should serve as a warning to the (Abu Sayyaf) members who are being hunted by everybody, possibly including their relatives," he said, adding that the mere thought of collecting such a hefty reward could destroy kinship ties.

But Hector Janjalani said he was confident that the people of Basilan would not betray his younger brother, Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani.

"My brother is not hard to find," Hector said. "He is not an imposing person. He continues to elude arrest because of the support of Basilan residents. No matter how many millions of dollars they put on his head, no one will betray him because he is kind to all and has done nothing wrong."

Hector spoke with reporters after attending a hearing at the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 2, where he faces a drug possession charge.

Police arrested him in a Manila mall in December 2000. Authorities reportedly found 207.7 grams of *shabu* in his hotel room.

Hector and 19 other suspected Abu Sayyaf members are also charged with the kidnapping of Basilan students at the Quezon City RTC.

He said that if Washington were sincere in helping the people of Mindanao, it should just turn over the $5 million to livelihood and infrastructure projects in the region.

"Poverty is the reason people (in Basilan) rebel against the government," he said.

Optimistic

Senator Arroyo said the bounty offer demonstrated the failure of the Armed Forces to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf.

But in Zamboanga, Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina waxed optimistic.

"A few days from now, our headquarters will be flooded with information that can hasten our campaign against the Abu Sayyaf," Carolina said.

He urged local residents with information on Sabaya, Janjalani and the other bandit leaders included in the bounty offer to immediately contact authorities. "Do it fast. Do it now, or somebody might get (the money) ahead of you," he said.

But Carolina clarified that soldiers were not entitled to the reward. "It is our job to rescue the hostages or arrest the bandits whether there is a reward or not," he said.

In Manila, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, newly designated military spokesperson, said the Armed Forces welcomed the reward offer "because even the closest of friends of the terrorist group will be able to provide information."

"The informants will come immediately and it will speed up and facilitate the rescue of the hostages," he added.

But Amirah Lidasan of the Moro Human Rights and Alliance Group expressed alarm that the US offer would aggravate human rights violations in Basilan, Sulu and Zamboanga.

"The offer is in dollars now, so it's possible that people will provide spurious information about somebody just to get the reward," Lidasan told the INQUIRER.

But Carolina said the bounty offer would not revive vigilantism nor would it increase human rights violations.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Basilan-based 103rd Infantry Brigade, said he hoped that inactive Abu Sayyaf members would become interested in the reward and volunteer information on their leaders' whereabouts.

He said that in the past, such a program prompted some Abu Sayyaf members and leaders to flee Basilan to escape capture.

Insulting

At the House, Deputy Minority Leader Abraham Mitra said the reward offer was "almost an insult to our efforts to go after the Abu Sayyaf" and was "like telling us that on our own, we will not be able to catch them."

Mitra and Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon said the offer amounted to foreign intervention.

Macarambon also assailed Ricciardone for not giving Malacañang the courtesy of announcing the reward money.

"It is very embarrassing for our country," he said. "We are a sovereign nation. We consider that interference in our internal conflict."

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin, the representative of Basilan, said the bounty offer could hopefully "put an end to the misery of our people" in the province.

"Some interpret it as desperation on the part of the US government because it has been a year since their citizens were abducted," Salapuddin said.

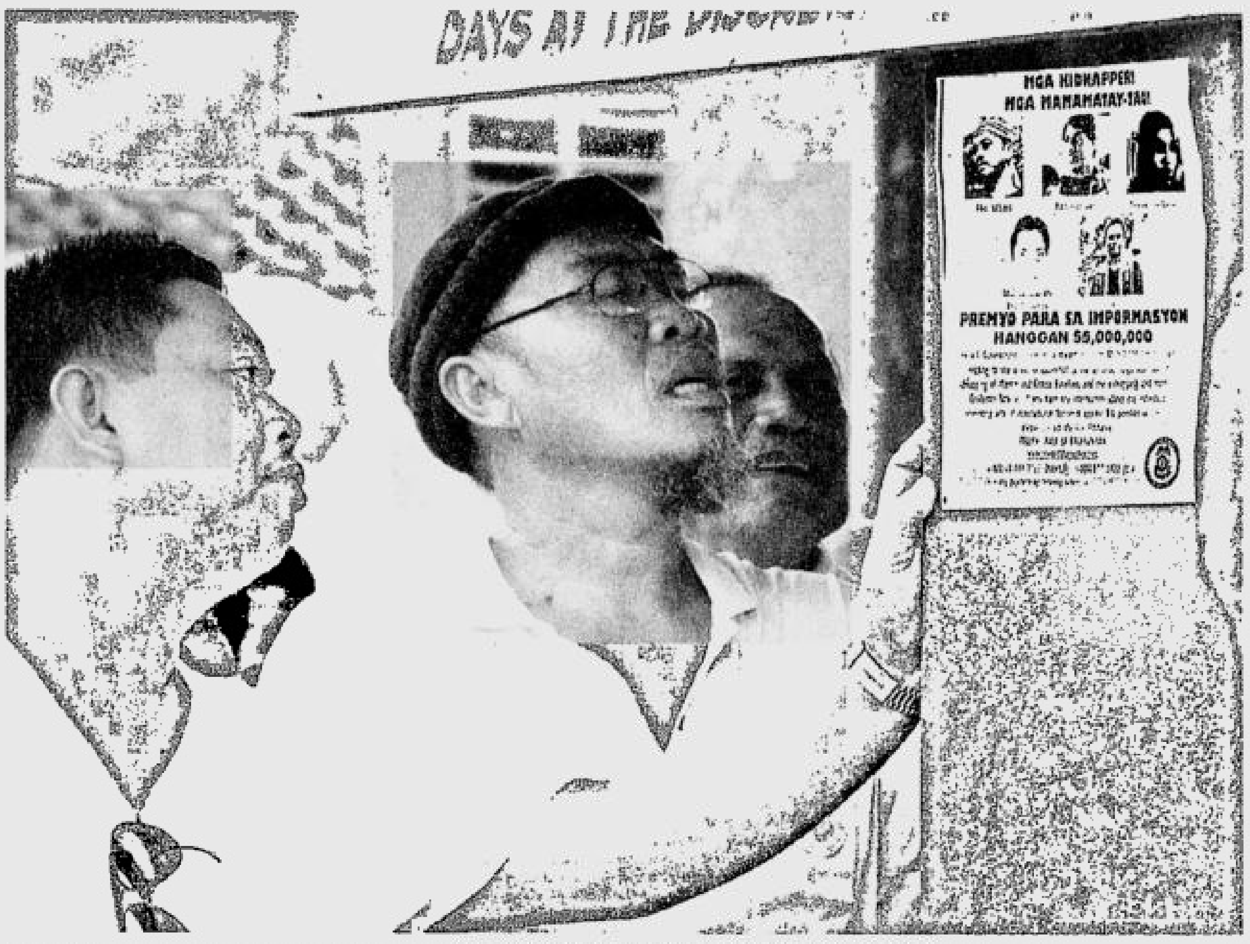
He also said the offer might give rise to raw or false leads, as what happened vis-à-vis the reward program put up by the Philippine government.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar said the reward offer should not make a difference because it was the duty of the AFP to defend the country and put an end to the Abu Sayyaf menace.

"One thing is clear, our Armed Forces must leave no stone unturned in once and for all putting an end to the activities of these bandits," he said.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said the offer was a "vote of no confidence" in the AFP and a sign of Washington's "thinning patience" with the Philippine government's fruitless efforts against the Abu Sayyaf.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon said it was "a standard police technique of neutralizing" criminals. "In this particular case, it will pass the appropriate government agency. It's just part of assistance for police operations," he said. ***Reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Norman Bordadora, Michael Lim Ubac, Jerome Aning, Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet L. Javellana and TJ Burgonio in Manila; Julie S. Alipala and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



BASILAN residents mill around a bounty poster posted by a policeman at the public market in Basilan. AP

Kuratong judge a widow with no fear in her heart

From page A1

ernment officials," she also said.

A widow of the late Prosecutor Felipe Yadao, she has toiled in government service for more than 30 years, starting in 1970 as a deputy clerk of court. Appointed RTC judge in 1996, she has had her share of run-ins with sitting administrations. Recently, for example, he turned down a Palace-backed appeal to release a group of murder suspects as a peace-building gesture to communist rebels.

This decision already says much about Yadao, who now sits in judgment over another politically charged suit, the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder cases.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered Yadao to determine whether the two-year prescriptive period for the revival of criminal cases had already elapsed when the Department of Justice revived the Kuratong cases in April 2001.

Re-raffled case

This early, though, reports say both the DOJ and Lacson's defense counsel want to have the case re-raffled—that is, taken away from her court and reassigned by lot.

To this she says simply: "It's their prerogative. But they must make sure it's based on legal grounds."

She ruled out the possibility of a whitewash. "It can never happen. It so happens that I had been a recipient of an appointment by the former President but it doesn't mean that I would allow it. Never."

She said she would not hesitate to summon Sen. Panfilo Lacson, one of the principal accused, to appear in court. "If my court deems it necessary, I will do so," she said.

However, she said she has yet to read in full the Supreme Court resolution ordering a reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case.

"I am expecting to receive the copy of the resolution anytime now," Yadao said.

Presiding over Branch 81, a special court of the QC Regional Trial Court, Yadao also currently handles the "Edsa Tres" rebellion case against former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, and the case stemming from the March 2000 murder of then-government corporate counsel Jun Valerio.

But what made her the target of militant protest actions lately was her April 11 ruling denying the motion to release the so-called "Mamburao 6"—suspects in the 1997 murder of the two sons of former Mindoro Occ. Rep. Ricardo Quintos—on cognizance.

Yadao said she denied the motion "despite recommendations" for the suspects' release jointly pushed by the justice, local government, and defense departments—and signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo—as a confidence-building measure in the ongoing peace process.

The Quintos murder trial saw her courtroom often getting crowded with pro-Mamburao 6 militants wearing black as a sign of protest.

"They tried to pressure me by wearing black, but I still welcomed them; my courtroom is open to all provided proper decorum is still observed," she said.

News items

But while projecting a sense of being above politics, Yadao yesterday sought to correct recent news items about her appointment as judge.

She denied being appointed to the QC RTC by then President Joseph Estrada upon the endorsement of his brother-in-law Raul de Guzman and former Senator Enrile.

To be "honest," she said, it was Esperidion Laxa, a lawyer also identified with the Estrada camp, who endorsed her appointment.

But it was inaccurate to say that Estrada "appointed me to the RTC," she said, quoting an INQUIRER report.

"I don't like the insinuation," she said, explaining that what really happened was that Estrada merely approved her "transfer" to QC RTC Branch 81 upon Laxa's endorsement in January 2000. She became permanent judge of the special court nine months later.

It was Estrada's predecessor, Fidel V. Ramos, "who opened the door for me to serve in the judicial branch of the government." She said it was Ramos who gave her first stint as judge in 1996: at QC RTC's Branch 79 and 99, and concurrently at RTC Branch 38 of Maddela, Quirino.

Yadao said she didn't mind mentioning the provenance of her appointments out of sense of gratitude.

After graduating from the Manuel L. Quezon University, she started her career in law as a deputy branch clerk of court of Quezon City in 1970. Then she became the secretary of the committee on civil service at the Batasang Pambansa. She then had a six-year stint as labor arbiter in the National Labor Relations Commission.

She then served as the assistant fiscal of Quezon City on an extended appointment by former President Corazon Aquino for the next 10 years.

Born on Oct. 4, Yadao has a 30-year-old son, a businessman, whom she would like to keep out of the limelight. ***With a report from Tina Santos***

Angara: President plotted to bring down Lacson

By Cynthia D. Balana

OPPOSITION leader Sen. Edgardo Angara said yesterday President Macapagal-Arroyo had met with government lawyers after the May 2001 elections to plot moves to pin down Sen. Panfilo Lacson to the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case.

Angara said the meeting was part of an effort to intimidate and persecute the opposition, but he refused to say who was the source of his information. Last month, Angara held an "emergency" press briefing at the Senate because he said the Macapagal administration was planning to arrest him and Lacson.

In a radio interview, Angara described the meeting as unusual, stressing that the political angle of the meeting was obvious. He said that several resolutions calling for the investigation of supposed crimes of Lacson were part of the effort to harass the beleaguered former national police chief as well as the opposition.

"They are using the courts, the legislature and the media in this cheap attempt at persecuting the political opposition," Angara said.

He insisted that warrant of arrests based on trumped-up charges had really been issued against him and Lacson and were to be served on them had violence erupted on Labor Day. The warrants were based on charges that he and Lacson paid off demonstrators to incite trouble during the said occasion, he said.

"There is a clear pattern of harassment and intimidation against leaders of the political opposition," he said.

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SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: 2002 French Open beginning at 5 p.m. on Sky Cable and Home Cable 29

BASKETBALL: 2002 ABC Champions Cup Preliminary Round at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Memorial Tournament Highlights at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

WORLD CUP FEVER ON

Nervous France up vs rookie Senegal

SEOUL, South Korea—France's World Cup title defense isn't going according to plan, and it hasn't even started.

The highlight of Friday's opening match against Senegal was supposed to have been French star Zinedine Zidane, who sank Brazil in the 1998 final.

Instead, the injured playmaker will likely be replaced by a veteran midfielder with a flagging career, who until recently was uncertain of even making France's World Cup squad.

There's also the still painful loss of injured winger Robert Pires, and shoddy warm-up matches that saw France lose, 2-1, to injury-plagued Belgium and struggle to beat soccer minnow South Korea, 3-2.

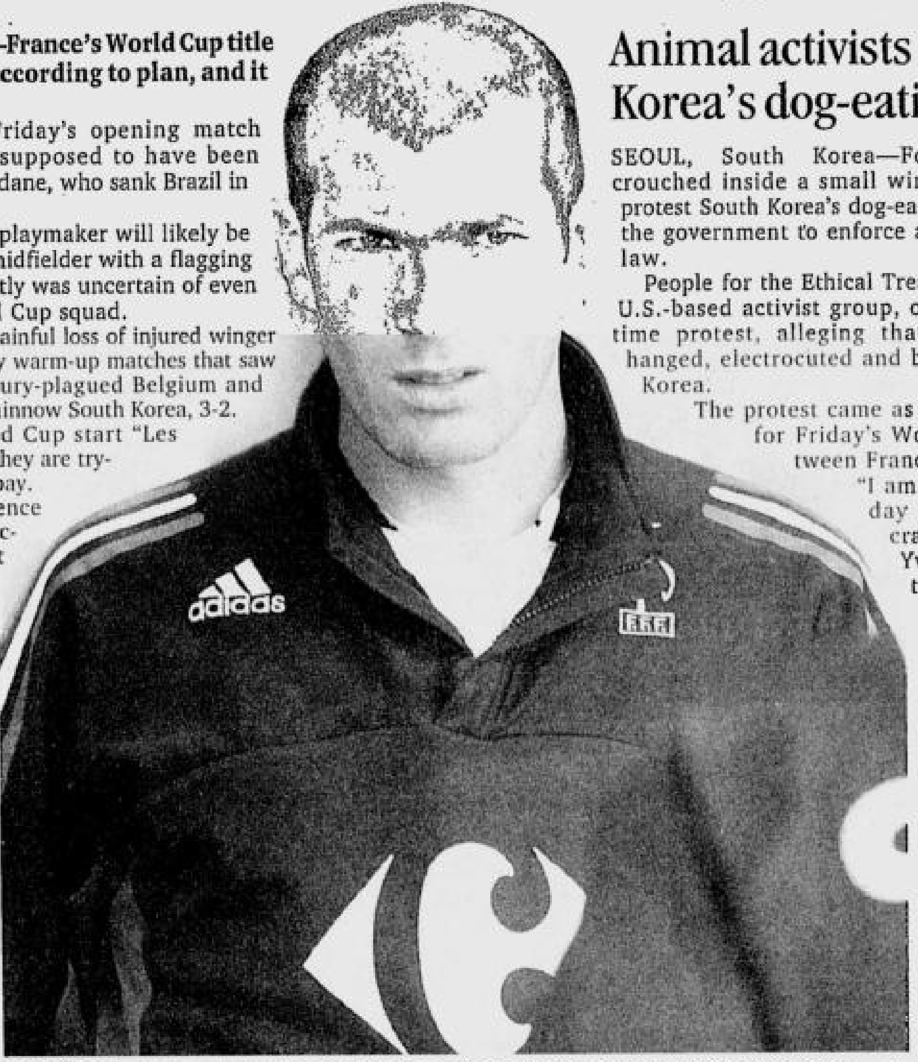
It's hardly the World Cup start "Les Bleus" dreamed of. But they are trying to keep the blues at bay.

"We know the influence Zidane has and his effectiveness, but Zidane's not here, so let's not think about his injury and not feel sorry for ourselves," French midfielder Youri Djorkaeff said. "Let's think about Friday's match, which is a very important one."

Djorkaeff, 34, is the most likely replacement for Zidane, who tore a thigh muscle in Sunday's friendly match against South Korea and is out for at least one match. Djorkaeff spent most of last season on the bench at Kaiserslautern before moving to English struggler Bolton in March.

"We're serene, we know what we can do and we're not afraid," fellow French midfielder Patrick Vieira said. "If we win the first match, we'll feel much better and will go into the next two matches in the best conditions."

France began the last World Cup by beating South Africa, 3-0, and defeated Denmark by the same score in its first game at Euro 2000. *AP*



ZIDANE: He will be sorely missed by his French team that is aiming to retain the crown. AP

Animal activists protest Korea's dog-eating culture

SEOUL, South Korea—Four demonstrators crouched inside a small wire cage Thursday to protest South Korea's dog-eating culture and urge the government to enforce an animal protection law.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, a U.S.-based activist group, organized the lunchtime protest, alleging that dogs are beaten, hanged, electrocuted and boiled alive in South Korea.

The protest came as the nation prepared for Friday's World Cup opener between France and Senegal.

"I am sitting in a cage today and I am hot and cramped in here," said Yvonne Taylor, a Scottish protester who flew in Sunday to join the protest. "But I know that this is nothing compared to what cats, dogs and other animals go through in the Korean market."

About 3 million of South Korea's 47 million people are believed to eat dog meat, and there are an estimated 6,000 dog meat restaurants nationwide.

International animal rights groups have condemned the practice as "barbarous" and asked South Korea to ban dog meat sales during the month-long soccer tournament. South Korea has not done so.

South Korea has no law governing the sale of dog meat. Concerned about its image, South Korea temporarily closed down dog meat restaurants in Seoul when it staged the 1988 Summer Olympics. It cited a law that bans sales of "unsightly food." *AP*

President to take subway

SEOUL, South Korea —FIFA President Sepp Blatter will take the subway to the World Cup's opening ceremony Friday, joining South Korea's campaign to reduce traffic congestion during the tournament. One-third of South Korea's 47 million people live in the Seoul metropolitan area, which suffers chronic traffic congestion. *AP*

Japan isn't really a soccer country

YOKOHAMA, Japan—Surrounded by skyscrapers that dominate Yokohama's waterfront, Akihiko Ogawa and his friends sit on the bright green artificial turf of a soccer field.

Although it's a weekday and they have jobs, these avowed fans of the game have been playing all afternoon. They are fired up—but feeling a little lonely.

In just over a month, the world's most-watched sporting event will be played in Japan's second-largest city. Teams from around the world already are scattered throughout Japan and cohost South Korea to vie for the first World Cup decided in Asia.

Problem is, Japan isn't really a soccer country. And it shows.

"Well, we think it's great that the World Cup final is going to be played in Yokohama," said Ogawa, a 25-year-old barber. "It doesn't seem to have really caught on yet with everybody else, but maybe once things get started, people will get more excited."

Maybe, but not yet.

After spending nearly $24 million for the honor of being a host, this busy port city just south of Tokyo is doing its best to drum up interest in the World Cup.

Around City Hall, banners boast that Yokohama is "The City of the Final." Flags line the narrow roads leading to International Stadium Yokohama. Huge posters hanging from a hotel in the trendy waterfront district turn members of Japan's national team into Godzilla-sized superstars.

The first big test of fan interest, a warm-up match last week between Japan and Sweden, was a loud success. More than 55,000 screaming fans filled Tokyo's Olympic Stadium in a sea of blue, while millions more watched live on prime time television as the teams tied 1-1.

But Yokohama is still in a waiting mode.

The city won't get its first Cup game until June 9, when Japan plays Russia. Then Ireland plays Saudi Arabia here on June 11, and two days later it's Ecuador vs. Croatia.

On the eve of the June 30 final, the city will fete a seaside bash with performers from Japan and Korea, the American group Boyz II Men and former soccer stars from around the world. Officials say about 25,000 people will attend, and tens of thousands more are expected to crowd the waterfront.

"I think people are getting excited about it," said Yokohama's new mayor, Hiroshi Nakada. "Many people that I have come into contact with certainly are."

But the mayor admitted he isn't really a soccer person.

"I played baseball in high school, and did karate in college," he said. "Soccer is more something that I would do just for fun as an adult."

Still, city officials are quick to point out that soccer has a special place in Yokohama history. *AP*

RP boxers seek s'final slots in Greece

By Edwin Villanueva

ATHENS, Greece—Two Filipino boxers gun for semifinal seats as Team Caltex Philippines gets its bid going Thursday in the 2002 Acropolis Cup International boxing championships at the Platon Stadium here.

Violito Payla, a gold medalist in the recent Tammere Cup in Finland, takes on Aleksandar Aleksandrov of Bulgaria in the flyweight division (51-kg), while Genebert Basadre battles a Greek entry in the featherweigth class (57-kg).

Veteran Larry Semillano also sees action at the start of the prestigious 17-nation tournament when he aims for a quarterfinal slot in the lightwelterweight category (63.5 kg) against Robert Maczik of Hungary.

Caltex Philippines is the chief backer of the Filipino boxers, who are using this tournament as tune-up for the coming Busan Asian Games this September. Other supporters are Pacific Heights, Revicon and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Abap Chair and northern Samar Gov. Raul Daza, who is also the head of delegation, exhorted the RP fighters, saying "give it your best shot. We were the only Asian country invited here so we are not only fighting for the Philippines but for the whole Asia as well."

After yesterday's drawing of lots, the Philippines found itself already assured of a silver medal in the lightflyweight category (48-kg) with Harry Tanamor needing only to hurdle Salim Salimov of Bulgaria in the finals on Sunday (as of press time, Basadre's opening-day opponent has yet to be named) because the host Greek boxing federation was still contemplating on whom among its three entries to field in.

Arlan Lerio, another battle-tested internationalist, will plunge into action Saturday against Finland's Arthit Thiangtrong in a semifinal contest in the bantamweight division (54-kg), while middleweight (75-kg) Maraon Goles clashes with Brian Brantley of Denmark in the quarterfinals on Friday.

"*Sabi ko sa mga bata wag masyadong magkumpiyansa*," said head coach Patricio Gaspi.

For his part, assistant coach Alexander Arroyo said : "*Buo ang loob ng mga* boxers *natin at mataas ang* morale."

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Barbers graces Elorde slugfest

THE MATIRA Matibay boxing card will be held today at the Grand Flash Ballroom of the Elorde Sports Center in Parañaque.

Reigning World Boxing Council (WBC) International Flyweight champion Juanito Rubillar battles former World Boxing Association (WBA) Minimumweight champion Joma Gamboa.

Sen. Robert Z. Barbers will award the championship trophy to the winner of the Rubillar-Gamboa fight.

The event will include the Pan Asian Boxing Association (Paba) Flyweight championship between Paba No. 11 Archiel Villamor and Paba No. 12 Jerry Pahayhay.

Completing the card are two non-title fights between WBC Flyweight champion Randy Mangubat and RP No. 1 Ramie Lapur and WBC Minimumweight champion Ernesto Rubillar betweem WBC No. 22 Flash Villacura.

Korea allows inmates to watch matches on TV

SEOUL, South Korea—South Korea will allow prison inmates to watch World Cup matches on television.

The Justice Ministry ordered the nation's 44 correctional facilities to allow their 61,000 inmates to stay up late to watch live broadcasts of the opening and championship matches, and games involving South Korea.

"By letting the inmates watch the games live, we can give them a sense that they are members of this society, not alienate them," the ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

During the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, inmates were only allowed to watch daytime re-runs of the games, the ministry said.

Inmates will not have trouble watching the matches as there are about 8,000 television sets at the facilities, it said. *AP*

Kuerten, Safin advance; Roddick out

PARIS—A giddy Gustavo Kuerten took a lap around the court, slapping high-fives with fans who'd watched and cheered as he pulled out yet another emotional victory at the French Open.

Marat Safin bonded with the spectators, too. Well, sort of. In a fit of anger, he tossed his racket into the seats and, after issuing a mild apology, got it back.

Andy Roddick got a ticket home, courtesy of a powerful left-handed server named Wayne Arthurs. Serena Williams lit up center court at Roland Garros with a fashion statement—where else but Paris?

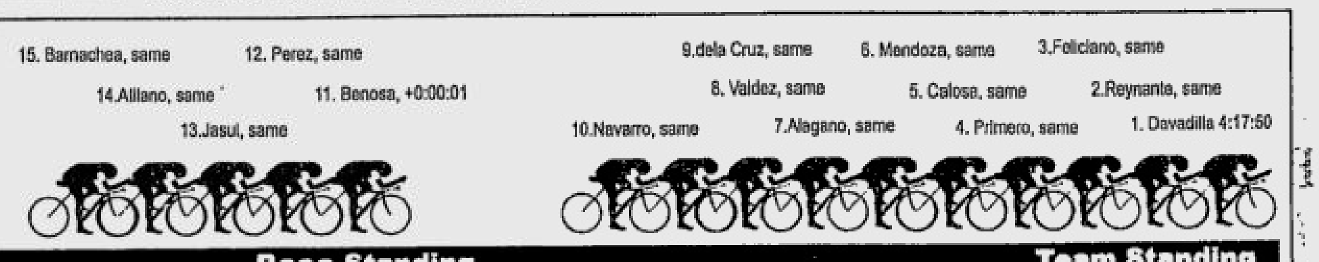
Lleyton Hewitt turned to some cinematic inspiration and avoided an early departure with a major comeback against a determined qualifier.

Andre Agassi's first-round win after waiting a day to get on court was more ho-hum, and Jennifer Capriati finally finished off her first-round victory Wednesday.

Both had to head back on court Thursday for second-round matches, while No. 11 Juan Carlos Ferrero—a loser to Kuerten in the semifinals the last two years—hoped to play against Nicolas Coutelot after spraining his ankle in practice.

Stage 1 Standings
(Manila - Batangas City 168.5 kms)

FedEx Express Tour
CALABARZON 2002



Race Standing

1. Davadilla 4:17:50	11 Benosa, +0:00:01	21.Gorantes, R., same	31.Quinmi, same	41 Royas, same	51 Pagnanawon, L., same
2.Reynante, same	12.Perez, same	22.Gorantes, Ro., same	32.Pagnanawon, +00:01:26	42.Austria, +00:05:30	52 Barlis, same
3.Feliciano, same	13.Jasul, same	23.Paulino, same	33.Martinez, same	43.Ricafort, A., +00:08:30	53 Tacuinou, same
4.Primero, same	14.Alliano, same	24.Marcelo, same	34.Yap, same	44.Diamsay, +00:00:28	54 Guillan, same
5.Calosa, same	15.15. Barnachea, same	25.Robosa, same	35.Espiritu, same	45.Acosta, +00:00:02	55 Vellabor, same
6.Mendoza, same	16. Vinluan, same	26.Millanos, same	36.Talaver, same	46.Cagas, +00:05:54	56.Gonowon, same
7.Alagano, same	17. Catalan +00:02:13	27.Dolosa, same	37.Ricafort, J., same	47.Osabillo, same	57.Stalin, same
8.Valdez, same	18. Curlan, same	28.Rosario, same	38.Apolinar +00:04:17	48.Roto, same	58.Justiniano, same
9.dela Cruz, same	19. Manapul, same	29.Ramos, same	39.Dosalla, +00:00:15	49 Basibas, same	59.Servino, +00:03;16
10.Navarro, same	20. Calosa, same	30.Luzon, same	40.Gangan, +00:00:40	50.Aquino, +00:05:32	

Team Standing

1.Rizal, 12:53:24
2.Nueva Ecija, 12:53:25
3.Mindanao, 12:55:30
4.Ilocandia, 12:55:45
5.Southern Luzon, 12:57:15
6.Pangasinan, 12:58:03
7.Visayas, 12:59:29
8.Central Luzon, 13:00:17
9.Northern Luzon, 13:03:44
10.NCR, 13:23:08

Race leader: Davadilla

Sprints: Luzon, 5pts

King of the mountain: Primero, 7pts.

Stage 2: Batangas City - Lucena City 154 kms

Welivetodeliver. FedEx Express

MEMBERS of Team Mindanao, skippered by Davadilla, stick to each other during yesterday's kickoff stage of the FedEx Express Tour at the Quirino Grandstand. JESS YUSON

Davadilla wins FedEx 1st stage

TOP FINISHERS: 1. Davadilla (Min) 4:17.35, 2. Reynante (Rizal) 4:17.40, 3. Feliciano (NE) 4:17.45, 4. Primero (NE) 4:17.50, 5. Calosa (Ilocandia) same, 6. Mendoza (NCR) same, 7. Alagano (NV) same, 8. Valdez (NE) same, 9. Dela Cruz (Min) same, 10. Navarro (Ilocandia) same.

BATANGAS CITY—Warren Davadilla bucked leg cramps yesterday to rule yesterday's first stage of the FedEx Express Tour of Calabarzon.

Carrying the fight for his Mindanao teammates, the 1998 Marlboro Tour champion burst like a bullet in the last 400 meters to finish the 168.5-kilometer run in four hours, 17 minutes and 35 seconds.

"I couldn't push myself to the limit because I lacked practice," said the 27-year-old Davadilla in Tagalog after nipping Lloyd Reynante of Laguna.

Reynante, son of former Tour champion Maui, clocked four hours, 17 minutes and 40 seconds.

Erick Feliciano and Albert Primero of Nueva Ecija finished third and fourth, respectively.

The second stage today from here to Lucena covers 154 kilometers.

Davadilla's victory towed Mindanao to third place in the overall standings behind leader Rizal and the second-running Nueva Ecija. *June Navarro*

Pinoy rowers compete in Dragon Boat event

A 27-MAN Philippine rowing team leaves for Guangzhou this morning to compete in the three-city 2002 International Dragon Boat Festival in China.

The Filipinos will compete in Zhaoqing City from May 31 to June 3, Guangzhou City from June 6 to 9 and Shiyanhu City from June 9 to 13.

Led by delegation head and rowing association president Benjamin Ramos Jr., the RP team hopes to improve its second-place finish in the same festival two years ago.

The other team members are Nestor L. Ilagan, head coach; Suhod Hakim, assistant coach and drummer; Ruperto Sabijon, steersman/trainer; and Usman Anterola, Cris Almeda, Jesus Asok Jr., Harland Baraquero, Romeo Canete, Romy John Dionio, Achiles German, Richard Labine, Diomedes Manalo, Andres Manongsong, Manuel Maya, Leo Carl Mendoza, Joemar Ocquiana, Crisanto Pabulayan, Rico Padilla, Roden Rodriguez, Ricky Sardena, Alex Sumagaysay, Salvador Sumagaysay, Norman Tabujara, Ronald Tan, Richard Toyay and Jaime Veras Jr., paddlers.

For the first time, rowers from Australia and New Zealand will see action against teams from China, Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore and other Southeast Asian and Asian countries.

Slasher Cup

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I SAW old friends Bobby Jones of Texas and pony-tailed John Philips of Georgia at the Big Dome last Monday and Wednesday watching closely the ongoing National Cockers Association 7-Cock Derby, which means they are in town this early to size up the opposition and "spy" on their Filipino counterparts for their keenly awaited showdown in the World Slasher Cup on June 17, 19, 21 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"They didn't travel 10,000 miles just to meet the local girls," said a Big Dome habitue. "For sure, they come here to win. They are leaving nothing to chance."

According to NCA stalwarts former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares and Jun Santiago, the Americans are fielding unusually powerful fighting cocks this time to challenge the supremacy of the Filipino cockfighters.

"As a matter of fact," said Jun Velasco, a longtime associate of Governor Ynares, "I consider the US cocker-breeders a force to reckon with in the coming World Slasher Derby mainly because their battle birds have tremendous strength and stamina. *"Mahaba ang hininga ng mga* imported fighting cocks *nila kaya nakakalamang sila kung pahirapan ang laban.*"

Billed as the "Olympics of Cockfighting," a term which I coined during the time of my former editor, the late Louie Beltran, a true-blue-*sabungero* himself, this year's World Slasher 8-Cock Derby will feature an international field of well-known and respected cocker-breeders. The visiting entries will come from the United States, Canada, Japan, Guam, Malaysia and Hawaii.

Opposing the visitors are the country's leading cockfighting fanciers such as former World Slasher champions Jorge "Nene" Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, twice Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Pampanga's much-admired June and Rudy Jingco, longtime partners Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, Peping Ricafort, Biboy Enriquez, Patrick Antonio, Mario Villamor of Phoenix fame, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta and no-flair Dicky Lim, winner of the first leg last January.

"It will be the day of reckoning," said Nene Araneta in a recent interview. "Definitely, the results of this Word Slasher Derby will also be important in deciding the Cocker of the Year because no less than three entries are locked in a close and bitter battle right now. Who will win, nobody knows."

Binangonan SMV champion

BATTLE-TESTED Binangonan SMV of three-term Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares won its last match against Meycauayan to emerge solo champion of the NCA 7-Cock Derby by scoring six stirring points late Wednesday evening at the Araneta Coliseum.

R&B Farm I of Rep. Claude Baptista and Boyboy Roa finished a close second with 5-1/2 points while three others landed in the winners' circle by posting five points. These were Firefly Thunderbird 8 of lawyer Ram Lopez and the Firefly Group, San Francisco of Ruel Feliciano and Sons and Spencer Winslet of World Slasher champion Dicky Lim. Binangonan, MK, also fielded by Ito Ynares, and RT 114 Mapalad I of Edgar Santos and Ruel Ricafort tallied 4-1/2 points to finish in the money.

Meanwhile, the NCA 7-Cock Derby circuit winds up on June 3-5, with Governor Ynares, Lito Orillaza and Pol Estrellado as hosts. Following this will be the much-awaited 2002 World Slahser 8-Cock Derby on June 17, 19 and 21, also at the Big Dome. Host are Nene Araneta, Ynares and the Firefly Group.

Racela, Villapando downplay chances

COACHES Raoul Cesar Racela of the LBC Batangas Blades and Joshua Villapando of the RCPI Negros Slashers are downplaying their chances when they clash tomorrow in Lipa City.

The Game 3 of their MBA First Conference best-of-five series will be played at the Lipa City Youth and Cultural Center.

Holding a 2-0 lead, Villapando said he was not relaxing one bit.

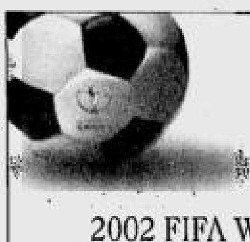
"We have three chances to win the title but that does not mean we can relax," said Villapando.

Villapando's boys won twice in Bacolod City, the Slashers' home.

Said Racela: "One mistake and that's it. Winning three games in a row is a tall order but we promise to give it our all on Saturday."

The game will be telecast live over NBN 4.

Meanwhile, voting for the 2002 Battle of the MBA Stars will begin today. The game is scheduled for July 6 at a venue to be announced soon. Fans can vote for the North and South Conference starting fives by using their Smart or Talk 'N' Text mobile phones. You can vote as many times as you want to ensure that your favorite players earn spots on the two all-star teams.



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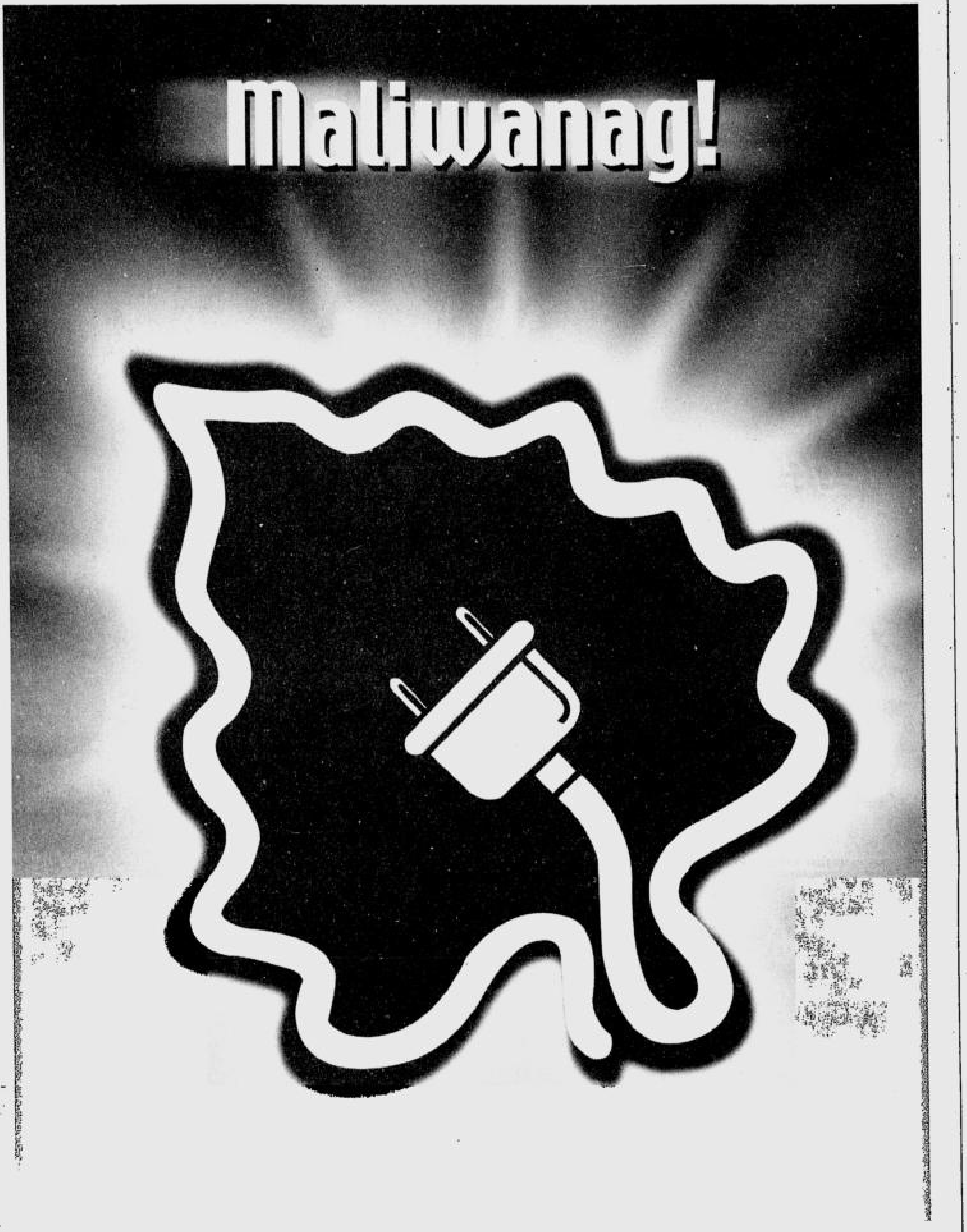

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Kidd stars anew as Nets beat Celtics for 3-2 lead

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey —After letting a 20-point lead drop to one, the New Jersey Nets used a 20-1 run yesterday to pull away from the Boston Celtics in the fourth quarter and claim a 103-92 victory.

The win gave New Jersey a 3-2 lead in the seven-game NBA Eastern Conference finals.

Jason Kidd was the star of the show once again for the Nets, who got out to a big early lead for the third consecutive game. Kidd finished with 18 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists, and his jumper with 9:30 remaining started New Jersey on the game-clinching run.

By the time Keith Van Horn ended the 20-1 burst with two 3-pointers, the Nets had turned a 74-73 lead into a 94-73 advantage with 5:36 remaining.

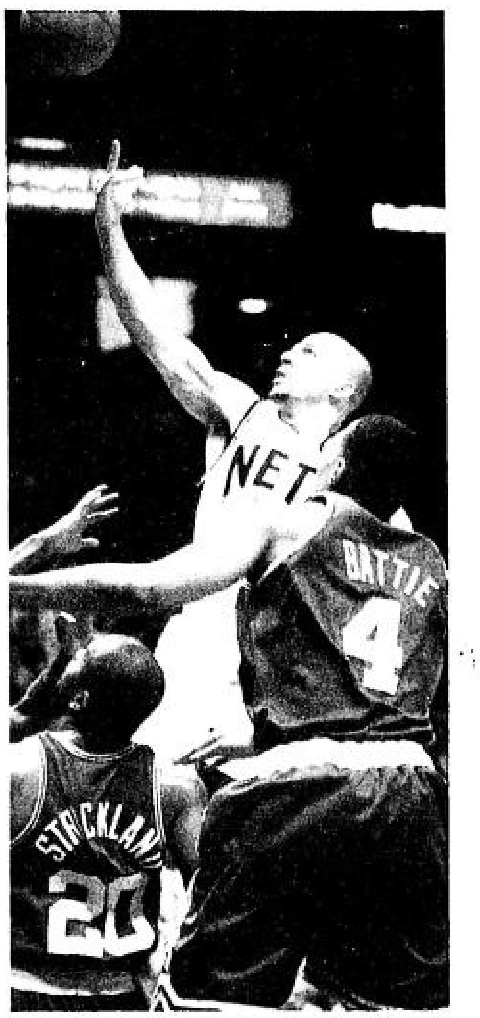
The former American Basketball Association franchise still needs one more victory to make it to the NBA Finals for the first time since entering the league in 1976. They'll go for it Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila) at Boston in Game 6.

New Jersey, which lost all of a 26-point lead in Game 3, showed once again that it appears to be the deeper and more talented team, getting 21 points from Kerry Kittles and 19 each from Van Horn and Kenyon Martin.

Paul Pierce scored 24 points for Boston, none in the fourth quarter.

The Celtics expended all their energy mounting their comeback, which was led by little-used Erick Strickland, who hit two free throws with 10:50 remaining to cut Boston's deficit to 74-73.

Kidd answered with a jumper, Van Horn had a three-point play, Kidd scored on a drive and then turned his 12th rebound into a putback bucket. *AP*



NEW Jersey Nets' Jason Kidd goes to the basket past Boston Celtics' Erick Strickland (20) and Tony Battie (4) yesterday during the first half of Game 5 of the NBA Eastern Conference finals. The Nets won, 103-92. AP

Ateneo battles La Salle today

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo-Hapee	10	4
ICTSI-La Salle	9	5
Kutitap	9	5
Blu Sun Power	8	6
Shark	6	9

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
12 noon—Champions for Christ vs Montaña
3 p.m.—Kutitap vs Blu
5 p.m—La Salle vs Ateneo

By Dennis U. Eroa

PART Three of basketball's most enduring rivalry comes alive today as leader Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation collides with ICTSI-La Salle in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Judging from their past encounters, the Blue Eagles and the Green Archers are expected to take a no-prisoner stance when they clash at 5 p.m.

"It's not hard to motivate the boys against La Salle. There is an adrenalin surge when they are going up against the Green Archers," said Ateneo mentor Joel Banal.

An Ateneo win will cement the Blue Eagles' hold of the solo leadership, while a loss will complicate matters as the conference enters the second round of the semifinals.

Like Banal, La Salle coach Franz Pumaren admits that the Archers play with extra motivation against the Eagles.

"La Salle-Ateneo is always a game to remember. This game is quite important as we are aimimg for the finals," Pumaren said.

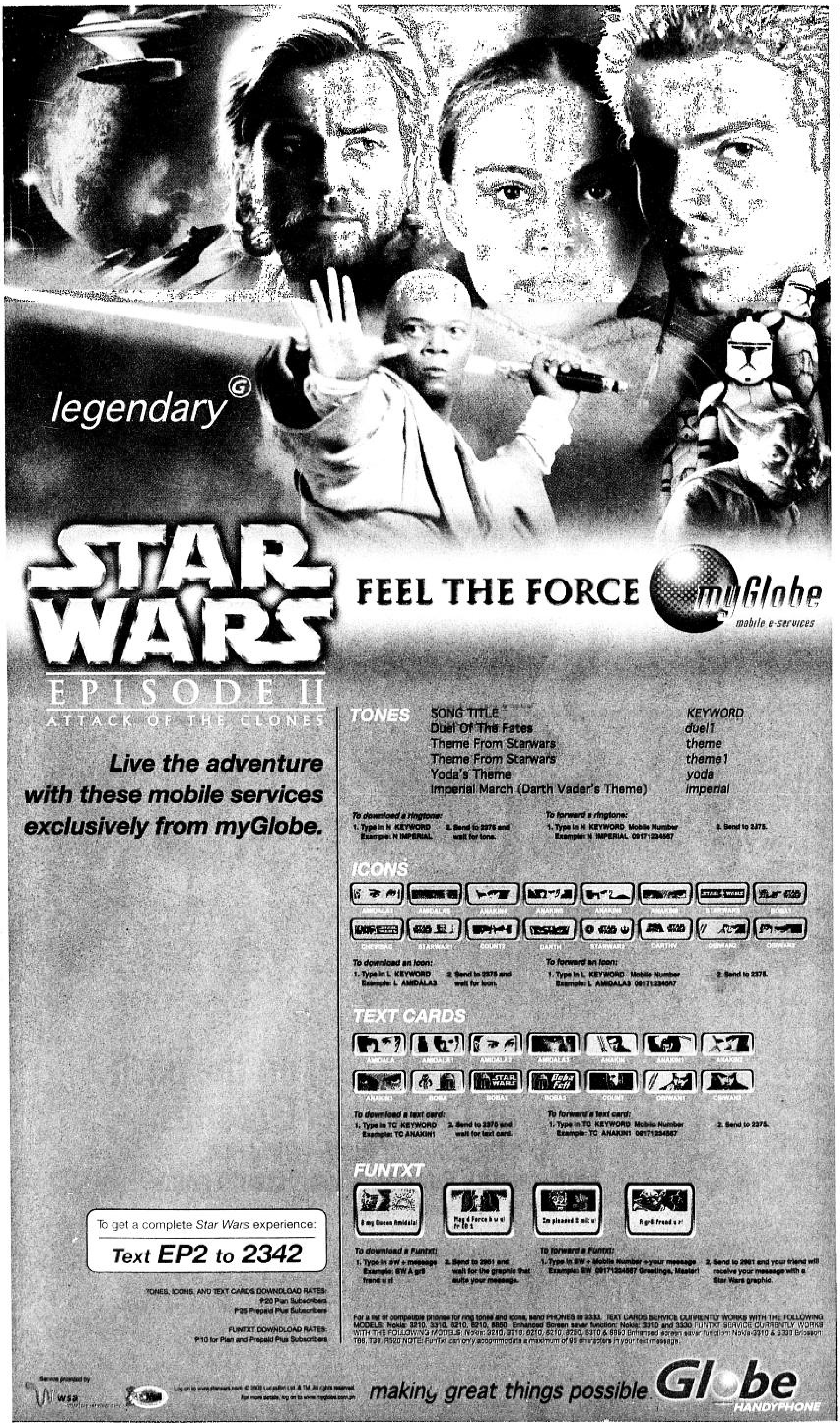
The return of Mike Cortez has been giving the Green Archers the needed boost. The six-foot-flat Cortez scored 18 points as the Green Archers beat the Blue Eagles, 73-64, in the second round of the elims.

Int'l bowling tomorrow

TOP Asian teams vie for honors in the 31st Boysen-PBC International Bowling Championships which get under way at the Green Valley Bowling Center tomorrow, Saturday.

Defending champions Tom Hahl and Jennifer Tan, both of Singapore, are among the entries seeing action in the June 1-15 meet serving as qualifying round of the Philippine Masters Cup, the third leg of the CGU Asian Bowling Tour 2002.

Malaysia, Hong Kong, Guam and Thailand have also confirmed their participation in the Asian Bowling Federation-sanctioned tournament which has Boysen, the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Prudential Guarantee, Bowlmart, Prima Pasta and Regent Foods as sponsors.



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Bare Eye: The shape and size of ageless adventure /A26

Nurse's slay witness still can't be found /A27

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

VICENCIO

Mayor faces suspension

By Tina Santos

GOVERNMENT prosecutors on Wednesday filed a motion seeking the preventive suspension of Malabon City Mayor Amado Vicencio and four other local officials in connection with the 1999 awarding of the P122-million new city hall project to an allegedly favored contractor.

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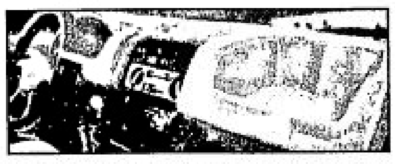

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The shape and size of ageless adventure

(MVP VOTE: The party's over, trophies and incentives have been awarded. But we all have to pause and listen. One seasoned, knowledgeable mother, poet, editor, chronicler of games, has just made her personal choice. Make mine Alvin Patrimonio, said Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy, veteran writer who handled the literary section of *Tatay* Chino Roces' Sunday Times Magazine when it was still housed on Florentino Torres, close to Chinatown, in the late '60s. She at the same time chided the PBA and other concerned parties. She said they should've properly honored Patrimonio after the deciding Game 7 of the PBA Governor's Cup title series. You don't measure a player's worth only by the points he produced. Mrs. Goloy said it should not just be a matter of mathematics. She then ticked off what she called the golden intangibles: leadership, decorum, loyalty, dedication, class, cool, which she said Patrimonio personified that glorious Sunday evening at the Big Dome. She seemed all set to vote Captain Clean to public office.)

* * *

GIVEN a chance at rebirth, this ageless traveler would most likely elect to become either an eagle or a whale.

Meet Vic Milan, writer, broadcaster, father, sportsman, lover of the great outdoors.

Throw in dreamer, too.

He barged into Peter Lee's teeming Hong Kong Tea House on F. B. Harrison, Pasay City on Tuesday noon. The guy has not changed. He flashed those eternally sunburned arms. He had a tough, compact, wiry stance, the bright, smiling eyes in dreamy droop.

He sipped hot service tea from a thin, tiny China cup, partook of the assorted fruits. Then he started to talk about a big gamble he would take again soon.

He spoke about adventure, its size and color.

One undertaking, he said, cannot count as adventure if you're sure to come back from it in one piece.

* * *

Uncertainty, announced the intrepid soul, is the biggest spice of his next odyssey.

His thesis half-said, he next asked for my fax number. But then, he said, why bother about the fax phone? He instead handed me a three-page resumé which stated details of the upcoming journey to the sea.

Some sportsmen, he explained, do come up with ideas. Judes Echauz, for example, wants to circumnavigate the globe on the yacht Subic Centennial.

Mr. Milan has a smaller but at the same time startling plan.

He's all set to go on a tourism-and environment-oriented island-hopping journey. He plans to ride a Pinoy fishing boat, an outrigger banca, from Aparri to Zamboanga.

* * *

Why is he doing it?

"I want to discover more white sand coves and picturesque islets for the nature tourism market," he said with a straight face.

Not only that. Milan said he would document the state of the Philippine environment through visits to fishing communities along his route.

Listed as one of the events related to the UN-convened celebration of World Environment Day, Milan's Bancaravan sa Kalikasan will also gather signatures from LGUs, cooperatives, NGOs and similar groups on what he calls a Manifesto of Commitment to the principles of sustainable development.

The itinerary is awe-inspiring: Pagudpud, Bolinao, Zambales, Mindoro, Apo Reefs, Northern Palawan islands, Tubbataha Reefs, Cagayancillo, Boracay, Bantayan Islands, Bohol, Surigao, Camiguin and Dipolog. He added "lesser known or still unnamed white sand beaches and coves in undiscovered beaches of Visayas and Mindanao."

* * *

Lest you got the wrong notion, Milan is not sailing alone.

A Canadian videographer has volunteered to come along and shoot footage for a video documentary.

Milan said he would take advantage of modern communications and send photos and stories to the sports, tourism and environment sections of national dailies.

Of course, he will need some backing for his daring trip.

He's inviting sponsors and advertisers.

As a media event, the project is rich in opportunities for institutional and product promotion/advertising exposure. Already, he has eyed government agencies that may get involved like the Department of Tourism, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, DILG, Coast Guard, National Defense, etc.

"By drawing attention to the rich seaside destinations waiting to be discovered by domestic and foreign nature lovers," Milan said, "we hope to help neutralize those negative advisories about the Philippines."

Milan says he's in the process of putting the finishing touches to the project.

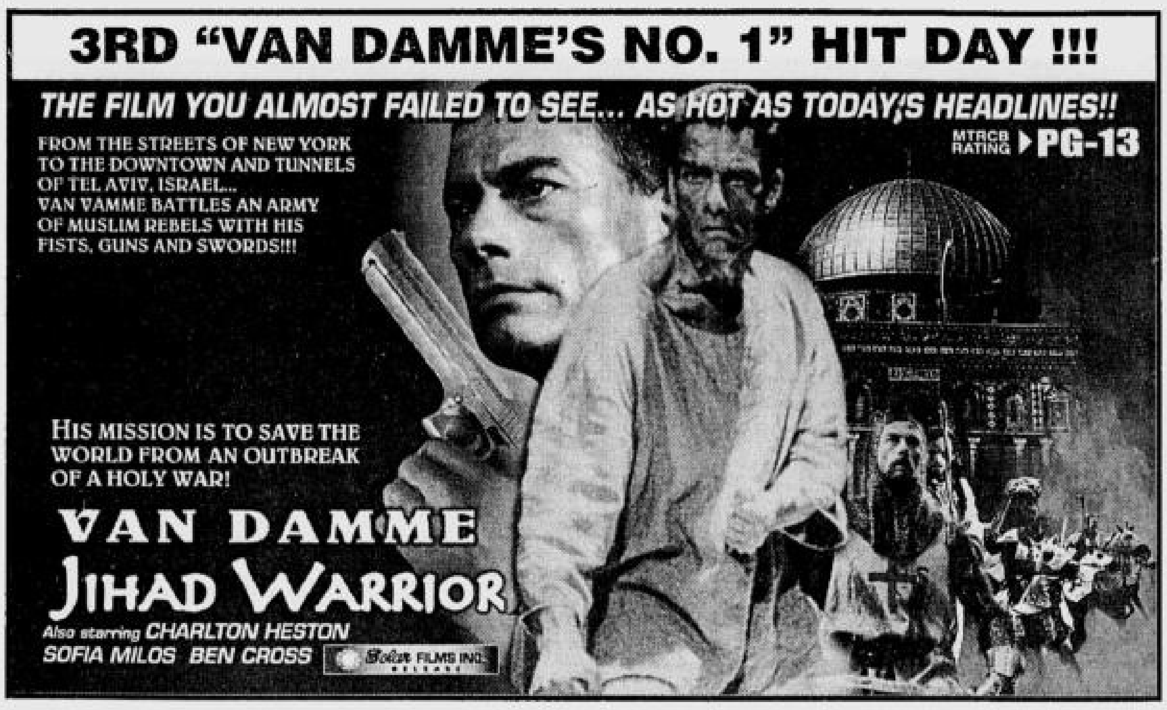
Then comes this big announcement. He still has one vacancy for a computer literate volunteer to assist in still photography and communications-related chores.

Applicants can reach him at 920-8460 or cell no. 0917-9238553.

It's something he has wanted to do since he was a kid, Milan said.

He, however, has no exact idea how long the trip would take.

Naturally, there's also no point asking how young/old the adventure kid is.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Mayor . . .

From page A25

The motion for suspension was filed before presiding Judge Edilberto Sandoval in the second division of the Sandiganbayan.

Malabon Councilors Edilberto Torres and Chiqui Roque Villaroel earlier filed graft charges against Vicencio and the others, who pleaded not guilty during their arraignment last Tuesday at the Sandiganbayan.

The city hall project in Barangay Catmon has been shelved.

Torres said that based on Republic Act No. 3019, or the Anti-Graft Practices Act, Vicencio and the other respondents may be facing a maximum of 90 days of suspension.

Torres said Vicencio and the other officials had resorted to dilatory tactics. He said the arraignment was postponed four times after the respondents filed several motions to delay the proceedings.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to Vicencio but was told he was in a meeting outside his office.

A member of his staff, who requested not to be identified, said in a phone interview that Vicencio's lawyers argued during the arraignment that the court should first rule on their earlier motion for a reinvestigation. But Judge Sandoval reportedly rejected it, saying the arraignment would not affect any decision on their motion.

On Tuesday, Vicencio denied any irregularities or anomalies in the contract he and the members of the city council's prequalifications, bids and awards committee (PBAC) entered into.

Vicencio's co-respondents, who were present in the arraignment, were city engineer Virdeo Cruz, Councilor Laure Borja, city treasurer Ernesto Pabustan, Maria Lida Sarmiento and Pio Dadula, all members of the PBAC which Vicencio chaired.

The Office of the Ombudsman earlier found probable cause that the respondents might have connived by giving unwarranted benefits to contractors Serg Construction Inc. and Principal Management Group Inc.

The Malabon vice mayor, who is expected to take over as acting mayor if Vicencio is suspended, is Jayjay Yambao.

Nurse's slay witness still can't be found

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PRIMARY witness in the killing of private nurse Belma Abella in Las Piñas City last month could not be found at the Quezon City address he gave.

A subpoena sent to the address of Wensis Tablang, 31, driver and bodyguard of suspect Mary Beth Lopez, 57, was sent back to the Las Piñas City prosecutor's office last May 17, according to state prosecutor Mario Mangrobang.

But Mangrobang said Tablang's disappearance would not affect the preliminary investigation of Abella's killing.

Postal authorities said no one of Tablang's name was registered with that Quezon City address, according to Mangrobang.

Tablang's absence, however, would deprive the prosecutor's office of the opportunity to clarify the seating positions of De Leon and Abella inside De Leon's BMW car where the shooting occurred near BF Resort International Village in Las Piñas.

In his sworn statement, Tablang said he saw Lopez get out of the car holding a Glock .99-mm pistol. He said he also saw Abella bleeding from a wound in the chest inside the car.

The lawyer for Abella's family, Melanio "Batas" Mauricio Jr., earlier said Tablang could have gone into hiding since he could no longer be contacted at his addresses in Camarin, Caloocan and in Quezon City.

Tablang was subpoenaed to appear before the city prosecutor's office early this month. His nonappearance triggered fears that he would not show up during the prosecution of Lopez, his employer.

Security guard Conrado Erasca supported Tablang's account, police said. Erasca supposedly saw Tablang trying to wrest the gun from De Leon.

Mangrobang said the preliminary investigation would be completed on June 10, the day De Leon is scheduled to submit a rejoinder to the Abellas' reply to her statement on the incident. De Leon had denied killing the nurse, whom she described as a close friend and confidante.

Ayala Avenue closed for 'Araw ng Makati'

MOTORISTS today should steer clear of Ayala Avenue, which will be closed to vehicular traffic starting at 11:30 a.m. to give way to a parade in celebration of "Araw ng Makati."

Ayala Avenue will be closed from the RCBC Building on Gil Puyat Avenue (Buendia) to Makati Avenue.

The parade will start at 2:30 p.m. It is expected to have 6,000 participants.

At night, Jupiter Street will also be closed, from Makati Avenue to Orbit Street, for a street party. Another show is set for 5 p.m. today at the Glorietta Activity Area, starring Ogie Alcasid and Tribe of Levi. The festivities will be capped by a grand fireworks display at the Ayala Center at 10 p.m.

The grand parade will include contingents from the barangays, members of the Makati Commercial Estates Association, and delegations from the city government, commercial establishments, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines.

Manila Polo Club riders and Mad Dog motorcycle riders will also participate. Vintage cars and the latest models from Toyota, Jaguar and Porsche will be driving up and down Ayala.

Tomorrow, June 1, the "Araw ng Makati" celebration continues at the ampitheater of the Makati Park Garden along J. P. Rizal Extension on the bank of the Pasig River, in front of Pamantasan ng Makati. Residents will be treated to an open-air show featuring Rivermaya starting at 6:30 p.m.

Leah Salterio

'Much hated ROTC' remains, says NUSP

By Jerome Aning

A MILITANT student group yesterday warned that the Reserved Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program would still be compulsory for college male students in some schools despite the government's announcement that it would be optional.

The National Union of Students of the Philippines blamed the little or no preparation made by schools on the National Service Training Program, the alternative to the ROTC.

"We will end up with the much hated ROTC again," said Raymond Palatino, president of the Manila-based NUSP.

He said "schools who do not want the trouble of spending money on the NTSP will opt to go back to compulsory ROTC since it will cost them nothing, in terms of finance and manpower."

He said the University of the East, Far Eastern University, San Sebastian College, University of Sto. Tomas, all in Manila, and the Jose Rizal University in Mandaluyong City are among the schools that would defer the implementation of the NTSP.

According to Palatino, the reasons cited by the schools' administrations are time constraints in finalizing the curricula, unavailability of venues and inadequacy of instructors to handle the program.

Under the NTSP, students are allowed to choose from the following options: military training under ROTC and civic programs under the Civic Welfare Training and Literacy Training Service.

Palatino said the implementing rules and guidelines on the NTSP were approved only last April 10 by the Commission on Higher Education, the Department of National Defense, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

The three agencies have not issued minimum standards for the CWTS and the LTS, and no modules have been approved to implement the two programs.

Palatino urged CHEd to monitor schools that would not implement the NTSP. Only a few schools have publicly admitted they would not implement the new program, he said.

METROBRIEFS

Burned in Caloocan

A STORE helper identified only as Al was killed in a fire in a furniture shop in Caloocan City early yesterday morning. Two others were also hurt. Al's body was found on his bed at the Joseph John Furniture shop on Kapanalig Street, C-3 Road, said Fire Officer 2 Arvin David. Antonio Seneneng, 25, and Zaldy Portillas, 29, both stay-in workers at the shop owned by a Jojo Cruz, sustained burns and bruises. The 40-minute fire apparently began at 5 a.m. under Al's bed, David said. It spread throughout the shop and destroyed four delivery vans. David pegged property damage at P2.5 million.

Tina Santos

Suspected in Rodriguez

POLICE suspect that a businessman was behind Tuesday's murder of SPO4 Manuel Alberto, the head of the police intelligence unit in Rodriguez, Rizal. Sources at the Rizal Provincial Police Office headquarters in Taytay, Rizal said investigators in Rodriguez town were closely following up leads which linked the businessman to the death of Alberto, who was also the chief investigator of San Mateo, Rizal. Police sources refused to identify the suspect until they have completed their investigation. Police said three men shot Alberto as he was driving his car on A. Mabini Street in Gold River Ville Subdivision, Barangay Burgos on May 28 about 8 p.m.

Nelson Flores

Cleared in Manila

PO1 FERDINAND Cajipe, the Manila policeman who on Monday shot and killed a suspected snatcher, has been cleared, according to Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban of the Western Police District. Taluban said there was nothing irregular in the account of the 15-year-old girl who on Monday sought the assistance of Cajipe and other patrolling lawmen when her necklace was allegedly snatched by Ronald Albareda, 35, of Tondo. SPO1 Alfredo Salazar said he "quizzed extensively" the snatching victim, who followed the lawmen when they chased the suspect and cornered him on Recto Avenue and Tabora Street. Instead of surrendering, Albareda put up a fight and tried to grab Cajipe's gun, which went off and hit the suspect in the head, according to the victim. PO1 Cajipe is a cousin of Insp. Lawrence Cajipe, who was accused, along with other policemen, of summarily executing suspected robbers in Tondo a few years ago.

Jerome Aning

Run over in Sta. Mesa

AN UNIDENTIFIED woman believed to be a hit-and-run victim was found dead at the foot of the Nagtahan flyover in Sta. Mesa, Manila Tuesday night. The woman, clad in a blue T-shirt and jeans, was about 20 to 25 years old and had fair skin, police said. She bore head injuries. An unidentified passerby found her at the foot of the northern portion of the flyover, police said. The man initially thought the woman was sleeping, but was alarmed when he noticed blood on her clothes. The woman's body was taken to the Ospital ng Maynila in Malate, police said.

Jerome Aning

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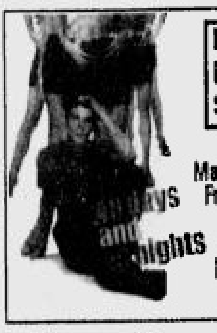
1	STAR WARS 2
2	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
3	I AM SAM
4	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
5	DEEP END
6	SPIDER MAN

Star Mills-
Sn fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
2	SPIDER-MAN
3	STAR WARS 2
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	STAR WARS 2

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.



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SMB joins Makati City celebration

Makati City's 332nd foundation day celebration gets even more fun and exciting as San Miguel Beer's "Sarap to Sundown" joins the festivities from May 30 to June 1.

The country's favorite beer brings in the SMB street parties featuring the country's hottest bands, including Color It Red, Barbie's Cradle and The Dawn on the Pamantasan grounds on June 1 (Saturday).

Today, catch the SMB float parading down the streets of Makati and get a chance to grab SMB freebies.

San Miguel Beer's "Sarap to Sundown" gave away a lot of treats in a raffle promo that attracted participants from Manila to Mindanao. The winners of the preliminary draw held last May 10 received Barkada vacation packages, while the stores where they bought their SMB products received a truckload of SMB each. Hundreds also won SMB Gimmican cases and summer gear packages.

SMB will also give away hundreds of thousands of pesos in cash to six winners and others in the grand draw on July 10. The promo is extended until June 30.

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A fruitful year for Leo Martinez

MARTINEZ

FROM the looks of it, 2002 is going to be a fruitful good year for Leo Martinez.

Leo, who is managed by Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management, is now seen on two shows: GMA 7's "Idol Ko si Kap" with Bong Revilla Jr.; and the gag show "Ispup" on ABC 5.

Also a popular commercial endorser, Leo opened the first quarter of the year by renewing his contract with Ponkana, the orange juice drink that popularized his "Uncle Leo" character.

Leo's wife and manager Gina Valenciano-Martinez also reveals that plans are ongoing for Leo to mount his first-ever stand-up comedy series. If the plans push through, the series will cap Leo's impressive career as an actor-comedian and his involvement with live stand-up comedy that began almost 15 years ago when he played then President Ferdinand Marcos in the long-running "Meldita," starring Tessie Tomas.

On TV, Leo's biggest break was in the now-defunct "Mongolian Barbecue," where audiences first saw his popular character, Congressman Manhik-Manaog.

In August, Leo will leave for the United States to perform at the New Jersey Expo with Nanette Inventor.

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Question Mark Club holds dinner-dance

THE IMPROVEMENT of the home for the elderly and an emergency ward of a municipal hospital are the goals of a current fund-raising drive of the Question Mark Club of Hagonoy. This was announced by president Susanna V. Ople.

The group, which marks its 54th anniversary this year, will stage a dinner-dance, "May Dreams Come True," tonight at the Fiesta Pavilion of Manila Hotel.

Proceeds will be used to improve the emergency ward of the Emilio Perez Hospital in Hagonoy, Bulacan, and the Tahanang Mapagpala II home for the elderly in Malolos, Bulacan.

The dinner-dance will honor young Estelle Ople Osorio as club muse. Estelle is the granddaughter of Sen. Blas F. Ople. She will be escorted by David Kahn, a nephew of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Gina de Venecia, Helen Gamboa-Sotto and Pagcor chair Ephraime Genuino will crown the muse.

To pin the sash are Las Piñas City Rep. Cynthia Villar, Evelyn Jaworski and Rep. Willie Buyson Villarama.

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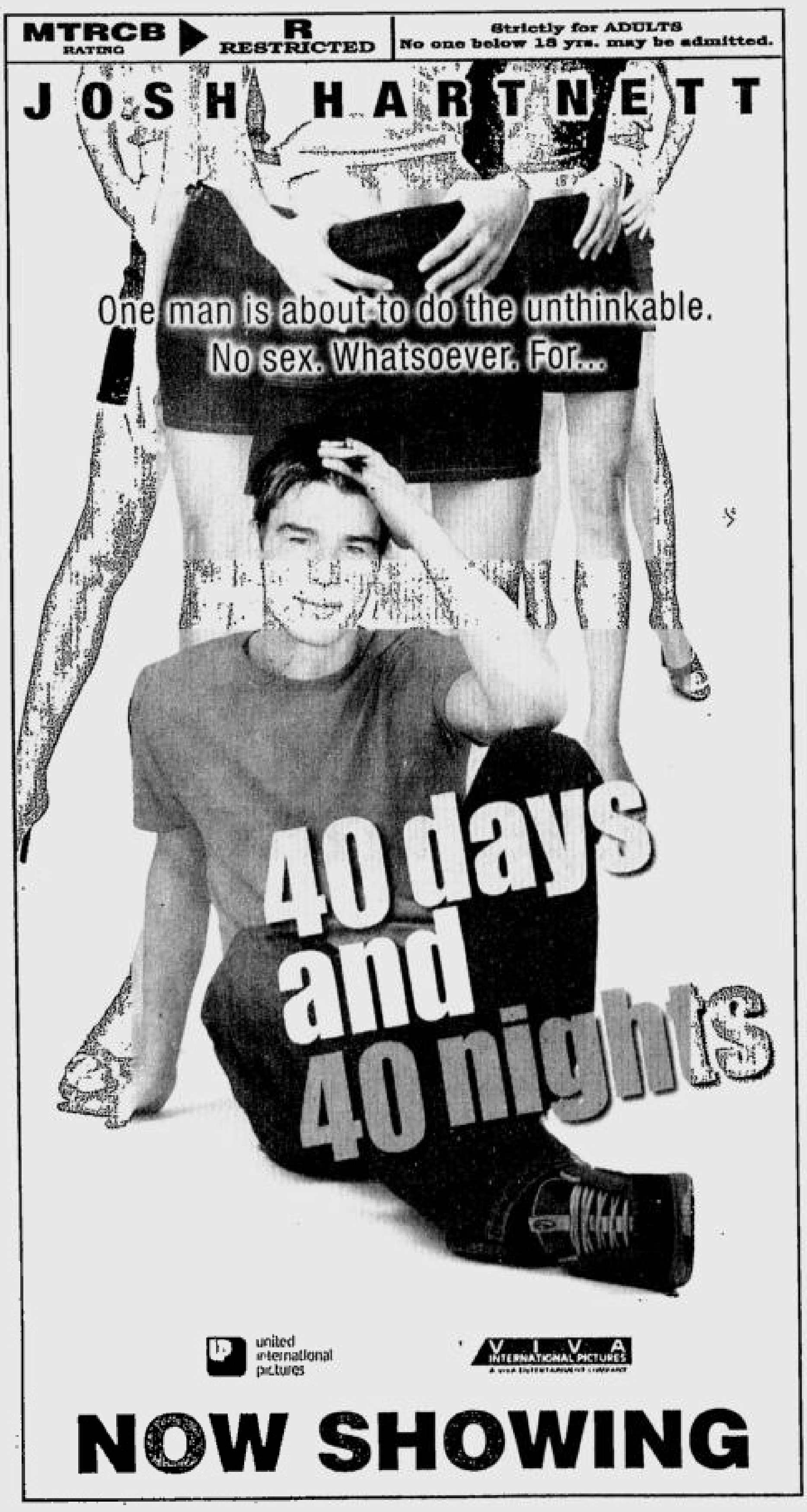

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JOSH HARTNETT

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RESIDENT EVIL - P12 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	**DEATH TO SMOOCHY - P13** 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00	**PANIC ROOM - R18** 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40

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P 13

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MAY 31, 2002	RETROSPECT	9:00 PM
JUNE 1, 2002	RETROSPECT	9:00 PM

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OPENS JUNE 6!

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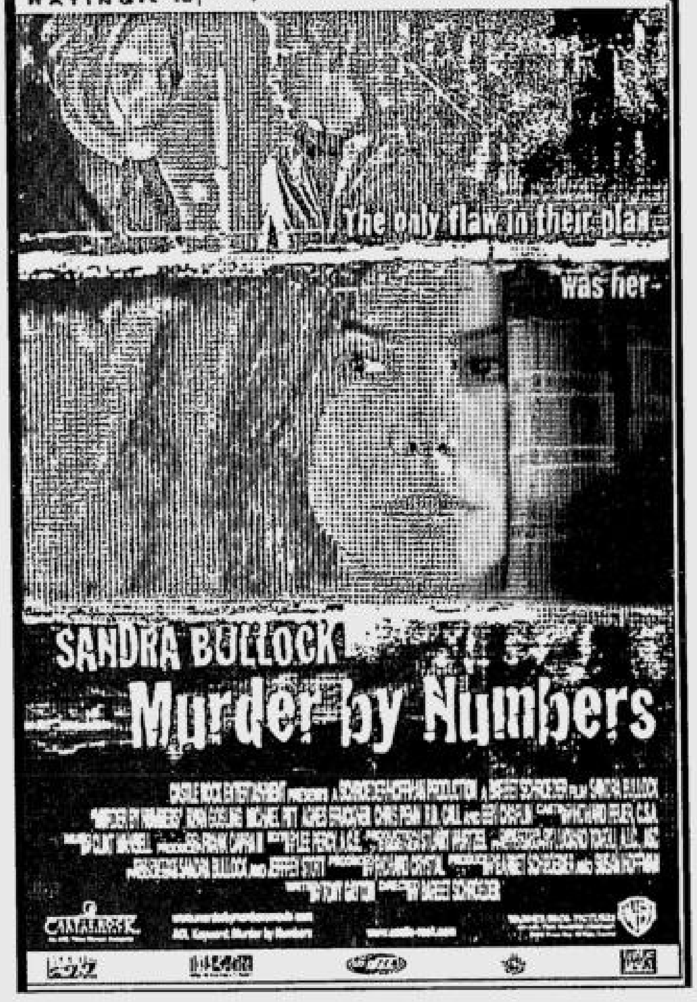

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	AKALA MO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BENEATH LOCHNESS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	STAR WARS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIBINGKA/LOVE ME TENDER
ODEON	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
ODEON-2	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
ROBEN	PAGSALUHAN
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	WE WERE SOLDIER / E.T.
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PAGSALUHAN
REMAR	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
REMAR-2	PAGSALUHAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
B	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
C	PAGSALUHAN
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-2	LIGAYA
CINEMA-3	PAGSALUHAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-6	IN THE BEDROOM
CINEMA-7	AKALA MO
CINEMA-8	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	40 DAYS...
CINEMA-14	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-15	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	STAR WARS. EPISODE 2
CINEMA-2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-4	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-5	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
CINEMA-6	PANIC ROOM
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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STARLIGHT FILMS RELEASE

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Friendship and opportunities

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

ALLOW me to share with you what friendship is in the words of **Susan Polis Schutz,** from "The Language of Friendship."

"Friendship is . . . someone who is concerned with everything you do . . . someone to call upon during good and bad times . . . someone who understands whatever you do . . . someone who tells you the truth about yourself . . . someone who knows what you are going through at all times . . . someone who does not compete with you . . . someone who is genuinely happy for you when things go well . . . someone who tries to cheer you up when things don't go well . . . someone who is an extension of yourself without which you are not complete."

My best friend, **Zsa Zsa Padilla,** celebrated her birthday last Tuesday. I was supposed to be with her and her two younger daughters, **Nicole** and **Zia,** in Singapore to celebrate with them since *Tito* **Dolphy** is in the US to accompany **Vandolph** for a checkup and physical rehab therapy.

Unfortunately, at the last minute, I had to back out because I had to tape "Game KNB" earlier to make way for the taping of a limited-run new show that I'll also host with **Roderick Paulate,** who in my opinion is our best and fairest game show master.

Zsa Zsa understood the sudden shifts in my work schedule and she didn't hold it against me that I had to back out. We both know work opportunities sometimes pour in and they can just as easily dry up. We also both know what it's like to persevere to work one's way back into the audience's good graces. We've both learned to value more what once was already lost to us.

Last October, I would never have expected to have all these offers and chances, not when my self esteem was at its lowest from all the pummeling my initial game show hosting had received.

Zsa Zsa, being a real friend, never failed to reassure me then that there would be vindication in the end. Thank you, my friend, for loving me enough to understand that my work is important to me and for not holding my professionalism against me.

We had a long heart to heart talk recently. In the six years of our friendship, Zsa Zsa has always been a voice of reason and a tireless ear. She put into words something that I'd been trying to avoid acknowledging for fear that I'd end up alone for the rest of my life.

She said my career is tailor-made for a single mom like me. I am encouraged to really work hard because I have **Josh,** whose schooling requires a lot financially and who needs different types of therapy as well as personalized one-on-one tutoring to help him overcome his learning disabilities caused by his Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). I know, too, that I have just myself to depend on for all our family's needs. This gives me the parental justification to really be the ultimate workaholic.

Zsa Zsa wisely pointed out that if I were married or if I were just in a serious relationship, my schedule would be difficult for any man, no matter how hard he tried to understand and to accept.

It's true. There are nights when I'm just so mentally and physically exhausted that any form of conversation inevitably degenerates into an argument. In the mornings, I'm also not great to talk to because I'm so stressed trying to cram everything in before I head for the studio because I know that once I'm there, my personal life and all other concerns not related to the work on hand will cease to exist.

The taping schedule isn't that bad. It's the fact that there are a lot of outside work opportunities that I invariably accept, and they eat up whatever is left of my already crowded calendar.

When Ipe (**Philip Salvador**) and I were together, my work was daily but only until lunch time, and I had only a once-a-week taping that never went beyond dinner time.

Now I've come to understand why career women really constantly feel torn apart by "setting your priorities." We still live in a male-dominated society and, even if men don't admit it, successful women are threatening.

Success requires a lot of hard work, single-minded devotion and a passion for your work. I can see how a man can question where he belongs in that scheme of things.

I remember when **Ryan Agoncillo** asked me during a "Talk TV" interview if I would be willing to set aside my career to settle down and have a family. I said that at that point, I would have to say no. He pointed out that's why a man would be threatened to even go out with me on a date.

Even if he's just 23 years old, Ryan said that all men do basically value the same things in a relationship. And for them it would be most important to feel that they were number one priority, over and above everyone and everything else.

A friend of mine pointed out that I should be patted on the back instead of chastised for being hardworking, disciplined, dedicated and *marunong makisama sa katrabaho*. He pointed out that these are the precise qualities of a woman who is a success at work but who is also a success at being alone.

At this point, I accept that you can't have the best of both worlds, rather than succumb to feeling that my responsibilities are a burden, to cursing my profession which I remain passionate about, and to dwelling on what I can't have. I'll just keep devoting myself to my work which manages to justly reward my efforts.

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Do you still believe in film awards?

Guest: No more, they've become too mixed-up, with different winners coming out. *Hindi na credible yang mga* award-winning bodies *na yan!*

(Award-winning bodies? *Bago yon, ah.*)

* * *

Host: The shoes you sell in your shop are so reasonably-priced! Where do you get them?

Guest: Imported *sila—galing* Marikina.

(Uy, nagpapatawa siya . . .)

* * *

Host: *O, bumati ka naman sa kanila.*

Guest star: *Kumusta po kayo diyan, dito sa studio at sa mga nanonood as kanilang-kanilang mga bahay*!

(Saan?!)

* * *

Host: Of the guys who are courting you now, *sinong nakakalamang?*

Guest: I don't know, *pareho silang may* appeal—*wala akong itulak-kaibigan sa kanilang lahat!*

(Itulak-kaibigan? Bago din!)

* * *

Host: How is an art film different from the commercial kind?

Guest: It's more in the details, the subtleness. It's not enough to have big material, you have to put in a new one!

(Subtleness? Subtlety. New one?—Oh, nuance!)

* * *

Host: We're running out of time, so why don't you plug your new album?

Guest: I'm plugging my new album. Please buy it, it's now out of the market!

(Duh.)

* * *

Host: Your new look is great! Do your fans like it?

Guest: Yes. They say that when they see me, they're on end!

(Uh, come again?)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Saan sinusuot ang* wedding ring?

Contestant: Forefinger!

(No, ring finger.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang symbol ng* astrological sign *na* Leo?

Contestant: July!

(No, lion.)

* * *

Quismaster: *Ano ang tawag sa nakapasa sa* architectural licensure exam?

Contestant: Board passer!

(No, architect.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ilan ang* "enter" keys *sa isang* keyboard?

Contestant: 72!

(*Ang dami naman*! The right answer is: only 2.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Saan ginagawa ang* regatta, land o water?

Contestant: Land!

(No, water. Sailing on land can be quite a trick!)

Adventure One channel expands in Asia

NATIONAL Geographic Adventure One Channel has secured major distribution deals in the Philippines, India and Korea. The all-new action and adventure channel is targeting trendsetters and adventure enthusiasts.

Its program mix includes adventure travel, sports and personalities, the outdoors and the environment, and adventure news, gear and health.

In the Philippines, the channel is available to over 700 cable systems nationwide, following a distribution deal with Accion.

In India, it has secured a three-year deal with STAR Group India, with a reach of one million households. In Korea, 50,000 households are receiving the channel through KDB Skylife.

More Entertainment pages on B18 and B19

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9. Promo period is from May 28, 2002 to June 30, 2002. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 14, 2002, 10:00PM. Raffle draw is on July 29, 2002, 2:00 pm at Astrovision, Megamall, Bldg. A in the presence of a D.T.I. representative.
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Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Bidding war looms over PLDT

By Doris C. Dumlao

A BIDDING war has erupted over the 24.4-percent stake held by the Salim group's First Pacific Co. Ltd. in local telecommunication giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. after the Hong Kong-based conglomerate confirmed ongoing talks on its divestment. *(See related item in Cocktales, Page B5.)*

INQUIRER sources yesterday said that negotiations between First Pacific and the Gokongwei group have reached an advanced stage, although they noted that other groups, particularly those with existing interests in PLDT, were keen on making a counter-offer.

Other sources said the deal was just awaiting final signatures, but is a done deal.

Stock market dealers estimated that the First Pacific block in PLDT could fetch a price tag of about $600 million (about P30 billion) or P700 per share.

Among those keen on the block were the group of taipan Alfonso Yuchengco, which had been contesting First Pacific's buy-in into PLDT from the very start, well-placed sources said.

In its disclosure in Hong Kong, First Pacific said, however, that it was in discussions with "an independent investor" concerning the sale of its stake in PLDT as well as in property holding unit Bonifacio Land Corp.

"However, First Pacific emphasizes that while such discussions are beyond the preliminary stage and are proceeding, transaction terms have not been finalized, and, accordingly, there is no assurance that any agreement will ultimately be concluded," the First Pacific disclosure said, without naming the investor.

First Pacific is the single biggest stockholder in PLDT with a combined 24.4-percent direct and indirect-stake: It first bought into PLDT in 1998 with the purchase of a holding company owning a 17-percent stake. It increased its stake in 2000 by buying out the 13.4 million direct and indirect shares held by local property unit Metro Pacific Corp. (MPC).

Other industry sources yesterday said other groups with existing interests in PLDT aside from the Yuchengcos—Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT), Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco and no less than incumbent PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan himself—might team up to counter the Gokongwei bid.

Market reports said that Pangilinan was organizing a management buyout in tandem with NTT and Cojuangco and might even team up with the Yuchengcos if only to outbid the Gokongweis.

NTT has a 15-percent stake in PLDT through NTT Communications of the UK while Pangilinan himself has a 0.17-percent interest.

Among the Yuchengco-owned companies with existing stakes in PLDT are: Great Pacific Life Assurance Corp. (0.55 percent); Pan-Malayan Management & Insurance Corp.; Malayan Insurance Co. Inc. (0.27 percent); Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (0.19 percent), and Pan-Malayan Zurich Inc. (0.08 percent).

Dealers said a Gokongwei-First Pacific deal would benefit both companies.

For its part, the Gokongweis' JG Summit Holdings is serious in establishing a formidable foothold in the telecommunication business and will expand the existing fixed-line business of subsidiary Digital Telecommunications Inc. by going into mobile phone services.

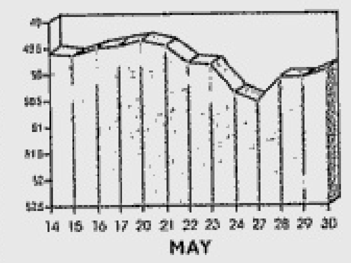
"It makes sense for JG to acquire the PLDT shares because it has a lot of funds," a stock market analyst said. "On the other hand, the First Pacific group is rationalizing its assets and has written off about $1.5 billion in investments."

Shares of Digitel and PLDT have been rising since Wednesday on the buyout talks.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 49.915 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 30, 2002

¥ 124.06 = $1

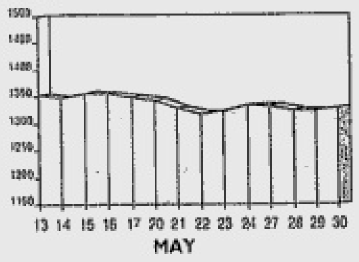
As of 5 p.m., May 30, 2002

GOLD: $324.60/325.10

per ounce Hong Kong, May 30, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares up 0.4%

SHARE prices closed 0.4 percent higher yesterday, perked up by reports local telecoms giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) might be sold off, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 5.13 points to 1,328.55.

"It was stronger this morning, with the telecom stocks led by PLDT and the (John) Gokongwei companies leading the market," said Lawrence de Leon of KGI Securities said.

Turnover rose to 347.4 million shares worth P970.53 million from 196.06 million shares worth P818.33 million on Wednesday.

PLDT rose P15 to P450 while major PLDT stockholder, Metro Pacific Corp., rose 9 centavos to 33 centavos.

Digitel, the Gokongwei-owned telecoms firm, gained 9 centavos to 83 centavos while the Gokongwei holding company, JG Summit Inc., rose 6 centavos to P1.84.

AFP

FLI hikes capital

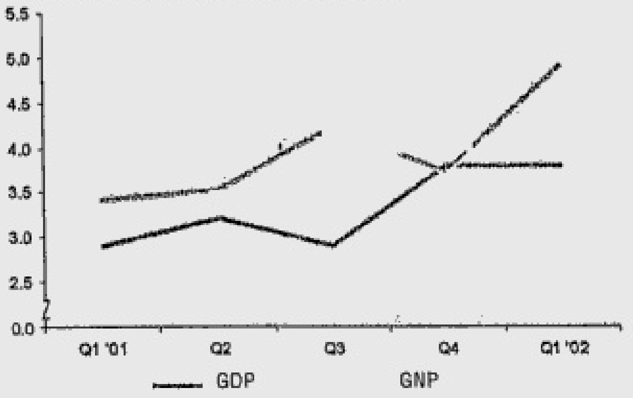
FILINVEST Land Inc. shareholders have approved the increase in the firm's authorized capital from P6 billion to P10 billion.

At their annual meeting yesterday, the FLI shareholders also approved an 85-percent stock dividend, which will come from the paid-in surplus in order to preserve the unrestricted retained earnings.

The shareholders also approved the increase in the number of directors from seven to nine. Josephine Gotianun-Yap, president of Filinvest Development Corp., Jonathan Gotianun, vice chair of East West Bank, and Lamberto Un Ocampo, founder of DCCD Engineering, were elected to the board.

GDP AND GNP

1st Quarter 2001 to 1st Quarter 2002, in



Economy expands 3.8% in 1st quarter

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy expanded by 3.8 percent in the first quarter, up from the 2.9-percent growth a year ago, as robust consumer spending perked up the services and agriculture sectors.

While the three-month gross domestic product (GDP) growth did not surprise the financial markets, the continued influx of dollar remittances from overseas Filipino workers boosted the gross national product (GNP) growth for the same period to a higher-than-expected 4.9 percent from only 3.4 percent a year ago.

"The economy is on track to meet the government's growth forecast in real GDP growth of 4-5 percent and in real GNP of 4.5-5 percent in 2002," Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said in a briefing yesterday.

"We will continue to reject short-sighted measures, like fiscal pump-priming, to address structural problems. By investing in the future, we are confident that growth will be sustained and employment and livelihood opportunities will be plentiful tomorrow than they are today," he said.

Causing some concern, however, is the slower pace of seasonally adjusted GNP and GDP quarter-to-quarter growths of 0.8 percent and 0.2 percent for the first three months of the year. The seasonally adjusted GNP fell from the previous quarter's growth of 1.1 percent while the seasonally adjusted GDP decelerated for the third consecutive quarter.

"The unsustained growth of the economy from the fourth quarter was due to the contrac-

ECONOMY/ B4

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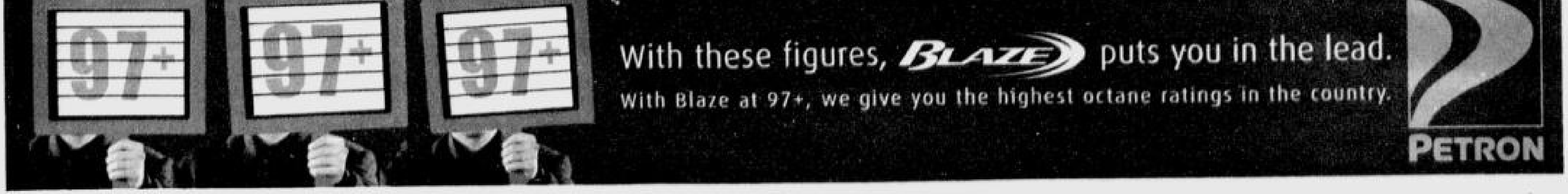

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San Miguel reports 43% jump in April net profit to ₱611M

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. (SMC) posted a consolidated net income of P611 million in April, 43 percent higher than last year and was a marked improvement from its performance in the first three months of 2002.

SMC said that with the positive performance continuing in May, the company's second quarter was expected to end better than the first quarter.

It said year-to-date net income for the period ending April, excluding acquisitions, rose 21 percent to P2.5 billion.

Last year, San Miguel re-acquired Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) and purchased Cosmos Bottling Corp.—which is in the process of being integrated under CCBPI—and Pure Foods. Including these acquisitions, SMC reported a P1.7 billion consolidated net income from January to April this year.

It said that April operating income increased 60 percent to P1 billion.

Year-to-date operating income was up 18 percent to P3.5 billion from a year ago largely due to the positive performance of SMC's domestic beer operations, the glass and metal segments of packaging and the feeds business of the San Miguel Food Group, the company added.

Consolidated net sales revenue for April hit P11.3 billion, up 38 percent from last year. Year-to-date sales reached P41.4 billion, 36 percent higher than P30.5 billion posted in the same period last year. In the first quarter, SMC registered a 35-percent gain in consolidated revenue, which hit P30.17 billion.

Ebitda (earnings before income taxes, depreciation and amortization) for the four-month period rose 21 percent to P6.1 billion from a year ago.

For the first quarter, the conglomerate registered a 35-percent gain in consolidated revenue to P30.17 billion from P22.3 billion in the same period last year.

Sales revenue grew by 41 percent in beverage, 86 percent in food and 3 percent in packaging following the consolidation of most of the newly acquired businesses.

SMC also reported that interest expenses during the quarter declined by 29 percent because the company prepaid some loans, which led to a 3-percent decrease in net financing charges.

Interest income, however, was lower as placements went down due to acquisitions.

This was slightly offset later in the quarter by the entry of P28 billion from Kirin, which acquired a 15-percent stake in SMC.

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ATR PROFESSIONAL LIFE

(Formerly GE Life Insurance Company, Inc.)

Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of December 31, 1999

Admitted Assets

TREASURY BILLS		206,474,419.83
BONDS		128,999,999.26
STOCKS		50,316,970.58
MORTGAGE LOAN		4,508,520.51
COLLATERAL LOANS		786,505.34
POLICY LOANS		8,850,854.23
OTHER LOANS		989,569.22
OTHER INVESTMENTS		700.00
SECURITY FUND		66,189.00
CASH ON HAND AND IN BANKS		28,486,754.64
EDP EQUIPMENTS		2,869,009.00
NET LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND ANNUITY CONSIDERATIONS, DUE AND UNCOLLECTED		5,169,665.84
PREMIUMS DUE FROM CEDING COMPANIES		36,151.49
RECEIVABLES FROM LIFE INSURANCE POOLS		3,360,369.47
ACCRUED INTEREST AND OTHER INVESTMENTS INCOME		3,644,022.48
OTHER ADMITTED ASSETS		881,607.45
TOTAL ASSETS		**445,441,308.34**

Liabilities

AGGREGATE RESERVE FOR LIFE POLICIES AND CONTRACTS		79,411,088.99
POLICY AND CONTRACT CLAIMS		16,527,156.29
POLICYHOLDERS' DIVIDENDS & EXPERIENCE REFUNDS DUE AND UNPAID		394,985.95
LIABILITY FOR PREMIUM DEPOSIT FUND		2,216,521.75
POLICYHOLDERS DIVIDENDS AND EXPERIENCE REFUNDS PAYABLE IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR		1,279,913.38
TAXES PAYABLE		5,959,941.13
COMMISSIONS PAYABLE		322,500.27
ACCRUED EXPENSES		4,445,603.20
UNEARNED INVESTMENT INCOME		380,258.46
ACCOUNTS/NOTES PAYABLE		2,302,353.51
OTHER LIABILITIES		4,385,020.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**117,625,343.43**

Stockholders' Equity

CAPITAL STOCK PAID-UP	250,000,000.00	
CONTRIBUTED SURPLUS	55,765,696.72	
RETAINED EARNINGS	22,050,268.19	
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		**327,815,964.91**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		**445,441,308.34**

(This synopsis, prepared from the 1994 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Diversified Financial Network Inc.** were Ramon Garcia Jr., Monico Jacob, Roberto de Ocampo, Saturnino Belen Jr., Hirotsugu Kobayashi, Jean Henri Lhuillier, Jose Roberto Delgado, Marco Antonio Urera, Benjamin Tiong Sin Ai, James Beltran and Edwin Villanueva.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Lorenzo Shipping Corp.** were Julio Sy Sr., Romeo Malig, Ramon Garcia, Joseph Kwok, Marjorie Wee, Michael Escaler and Deogracias Vistan.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Liberty Flour Mills Inc.** were Jesus Jalandoni, William Carlos Uy, Felix Maramba Jr., Sergio Locsin, Jose Ma. Lopez, Bejamin Jalandoni, John Carlos Uy, Vincent Vargas, William Ang, David Ng and Ricardo Gella.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Republic Glass Holdings Corp.** were Geronimo Velasco, Geronimo Velasco Jr., Henry Sy Sr., Bienvenido Tan Jr., Corazon de la Paz, Ma. Paz Amparo Laperal, Federico Puno, Adeline Lim and Jose Miguel Velasco.

* * *

ALSONS Consolidated Resources Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 19, 3 p.m. at the Linden Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Only stockholders as of May 21 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

CITY & Land Developers Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 11, 4 p.m. at the 3/F Cityland Condominium 10 Tower II, Makati City. Only stockholders as of May 12 are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

* * *

PICOP Resources Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 26, 2:30 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club. Only stockholders as of May 27 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

UNITED Paragon Mining Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 26, 10 a.m. at the 9/F Quad Apha Centrum, Mandaluyong City. Stockholders as of May 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, May 30, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	1,161,800
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	90	90	90	500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	55.5	56	7,237,900
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	10
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39.5	40	39	40	318,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.82	1.92	1.82	1.86	160,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40	40	39	39.5	43,600
Philippine National Bank	38	38	35.5	35.5	67,500
Security Bank Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	74,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23.5	23	23.5	79,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	3,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1465	1465	1465	1465	1,710
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1115	1135	1115	1135	7,120
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	29.5	29.5	29	29	10,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.77	0.87	0.77	0.83	89,840,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	670	660	670	940
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	1,900,000
Piltel	0.43	0.5	0.43	0.47	19,240,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.29	310,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	447.5	480	442.5	450	407,890
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	17,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23.25	23.5	23	23	13,800
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33	32	32.5	2,422,900
Petron Corp.	1.88	1.94	1.88	1.92	13,292,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	100,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	6,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.6	637,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	65,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	60,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.72	890,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.42	2.48	2.42	2.48	160,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	36,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	34	284,000
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	435,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47.5	47	47.5	151,400
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	54	52.5	54	200,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.4	4.4	105,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	1,664,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	80,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.32	1,233,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	610,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	13,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.8	2.65	2.8	50,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.51	4,470,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.35	0.25	0.32	5,730,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	900,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	80,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.75	206,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,200,000
Ionics Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	116,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.82	1.84	5,403,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	6,600,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
Medco Holdings	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.78	3,680,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.36	0.25	0.33	61,770,000
Music Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	280,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	90,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	150,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	5	5	5	5	1,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.44	0.39	0.44	3,450,000
Mondragon Intl. Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	120,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	29.5	29.5	28.5	29	85,500
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	10
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	820	840	820	840	910
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	45,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	9,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	2,360,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	50,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,190,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	250,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.38	0.33	0.38	3,970,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.27	1,230,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	3.1	3.1	2.95	2.95	4,885,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	40,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	570,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.78	2.1	1.78	2.04	1,311,000
SM Development Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	60,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	552,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0038	0.0032	0.0038	23,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	4,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	450,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	140,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0048	15,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	7,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	7,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	400,000
OIL					
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	420,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	9,157,540	459,333,595.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	261,945,850	473,071,915.00
PRO	16,468,000	39,679,110.00
Mining	59,490,000	800,350.00
OIL	420,000	69,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	347,481,390	972,954,170.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	540.00	UP 0.45
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,802.28	UP 15.94
PRO	601.36	DOWN 5.68
Mining	1,468.83	DOWN 9.27
OIL	1.21	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	761.91	UP 7.22
Composite	1,328.55	UP 5.13

NO. OF ADVANCES: 43; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 105; NO. OF TRADES: 4,033

CURRENCIES

May 30, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.068376	1.000000	49.9700
Japan	Yen	0.008589	0.008039	0.4017
United Kingdom	Pound	1.562500	1.462500	73.0811
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136979	0.128212	6.4068
Switzerland	Franc	0.681797	0.638162	31.8890
Canada	Dollar	0.696419	0.651848	32.5728
Singapore	Dollar	0.595859	0.557724	27.8695
Australia	Dollar	0.603262	0.564653	28.2157
Bahrain	Dinar	2.834040	2.652661	132.5535
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.284901	0.266667	13.3253
Brunei	Dollar	0.594071	0.556050	27.7858
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000121	0.000113	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.025168	0.023557	1.1771
UAE	Dirham	0.290889	0.272272	13.6054
Korea	Won	0.000876	0.000820	0.0410
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.936000	46.7719
Argentina	Peso	0.301801	0.282486	14.1158
Brazil	Real	0.423791	0.396668	19.8215
Denmark	Kroner	0.134429	0.125826	6.2875
India	Rupee	0.021844	0.020446	1.0217
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.281189	0.263193	13.1518
Mexico	New Peso	0.110233	0.103178	5.1558
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509721	0.477099	23.8406
Norway	Kroner	0.134969	0.126331	6.3128
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017822	0.016681	0.8335
South Africa	Rand	0.017822	0.016681	0.8335
Sweden	Kroner	0.109158	0.102172	5.1055
Syria	Pound	0.024448	0.022883	1.1435
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031322	0.029317	1.4650
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000980	0.000917	0.0458

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Meralco seeks gov't help on Napocor penalties

By R. W. Domingo

POWER distribution giant Manila Electric Co. has called on the Department of Energy to intervene in the current impasse on a P5.7-billion "penalty" imposed by the state-owned National Power Corp.

"We urge the Department of Energy to intervene so that we can finally put an end to this issue," Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada said in an interview.

Napocor started imposing unilateral penalties on the firm covering January to February amounting to P2 billion, he said.

During last Tuesday's annual stockholders' meeting, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the utility would not pay a single centavo to Napocor.

"We have resisted recognizing that penalty," Francisco said. "(What we want) is the negotiation for a transition supply contract in place of the 10-year supply contract."

Andrada had said earlier that Meralco sent Napocor a termination notice for the supply contract that was good until the end of 2004.

He said Napocor's penalties have reached P5.7 billion to date.

"If we assumed this penalty and would recover it at one time, we would have to raise our rates by P2.50 per kilowatt-hour," the executive said.

But Napocor spokesperson Dennis Gana said there was no penalty but a charge for minimum offtake.

"Meralco is supposed to buy from Napocor at least 3,600 megawatts a month," Gana said. "Meralco has to pay for this even if it takes less."

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. early this month lashed at Meralco for unilaterally terminating the 10-year supply contract.

Perez said: "You do not just terminate a contract. They could have at least sat down with Napocor and discuss a possible renegotiation."

He said that while the government respected the sanctity of its contracts with foreign-owned power generating companies, it is hoped that a local firm like Meralco would honor its own.

Andrada said he believed that Perez would change his mind for the benefit of the public.

It was also the energy department which came out with a report in April that Meralco's petition for unbundled rates was "excessive and unjustifiable."

We are pleased to announce that raffle numbers of qualified HOPE depositors corresponding to their average daily cleared balances (ADCBs) for the month of April 2002 are now available for verification at their respective branches.

The third quarterly draw covering raffle numbers issued from April to June 2002 is scheduled for July 26, 2002. At stake are an IBM ThinkPad I Series Laptop, a Nokia 8850 Cell Phone, a Palm Pilot M505 and forty (40) 1st e-Bank gift certificates at P1,000.00 each.

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RP presses delisting from FATF list

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES is going to court the influential members of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to support the country's removal from the list of countries seen as uncooperative in the fight against money laundering.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilpinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the country's representatives led by SEC Chair Lilia Bautista would try to hold one-on-one meetings with FATF representatives of the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France and Japan.

Buenaventura said the meetings were being arranged prior to the FATF plenary meeting next month.

"We want to be given a chance to explain to representatives of the US, UK, France, Germany and Japan our achievements in the fight against dirty money," he said.

Buenaventura is also the chair of the Anti-Money Laundering Council that monitors the movement of dirty funds and initiates legal action against suspicious accounts. The SEC's Bautista and Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis are members of the council.

"The more people supporting it within FATF, the more chances we have of being delisted sooner," the BSP governor said.

Buenaventura said he would discuss the Philippines' removal from the FATF list with the head of the FATF Asia Pacific.

"I think Japan is sympathetic to us. But also crucial would be the support of the other big countries," he added.

Buenaventura is hoping the Philippines would be taken out of the list within the year or in early 2003 at the latest.

The FATF, the global watchdog against dirty money, meets only twice a year—one in February and one in June.

Buenaventura said the Philippines would take the opportunity to inform the FATF of the country's achievements in putting in place a law and administrative policies against money laundering in the June meeting.

Despite passing a law against money laundering in September 2001 and signing the implementing rules and regulations last March, the Philippines had remained on the FATF list.

Economy . . .

From page B1

tion by 0.7 percent of the combined agriculture, fishery and forestry sector, way below the 2.5-percent growth it registered in the previous quarter," National Statistics Coordination Board secretary general Romulo Virola stressed.

Also contributing to weaker quarter-to-quarter growth was the contraction in local industries by 0.3 percent, although some buffer was provided by the resilient services sector, which posted a one-percent growth and sustained its expansion since 1993, Virola noted.

GNP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given period while gross domestic product (GDP) excludes the net factor income from abroad component.

The seasonally adjusted indicator for GNP and GDP takes out seasonal factors—such as agricultural harvests and weather conditions—while retaining trends and cycles in order to enable quarter-to-quarter comparisons.

Nevertheless, Canlas said the Philippine economy was "healthy and continues to gather strength."

"The sound aggregate economic performance being observed owes a great deal to the administration's macroeconomic strategy ushered in last year. A major part of this strategy is the budget deficit reduction program. Putting the government back on the track of fiscal discipline allowed private sector-led growth to take place," Canlas explained.

The growth in the net factor income from abroad highlighted the benefits derived from the continuing increase in the international mobility of Filipino workers and the growing integration of the country into the global economy, Canlas noted.

The growth of this income component was doubled at 22.5 percent during the period from 11.7 percent a year ago, thus contributing 1.4 percentage points to the 4.9-percent GNP growth.

The services sector, which grew by 4.8 percent, continued to account for the biggest share in the economy's growth, putting in 2.1 percentage points, led by the transportation, communication and storage as well as the trade sub-sectors. There was likewise some growth in the office dwellings and real estate sector, and private and government services.

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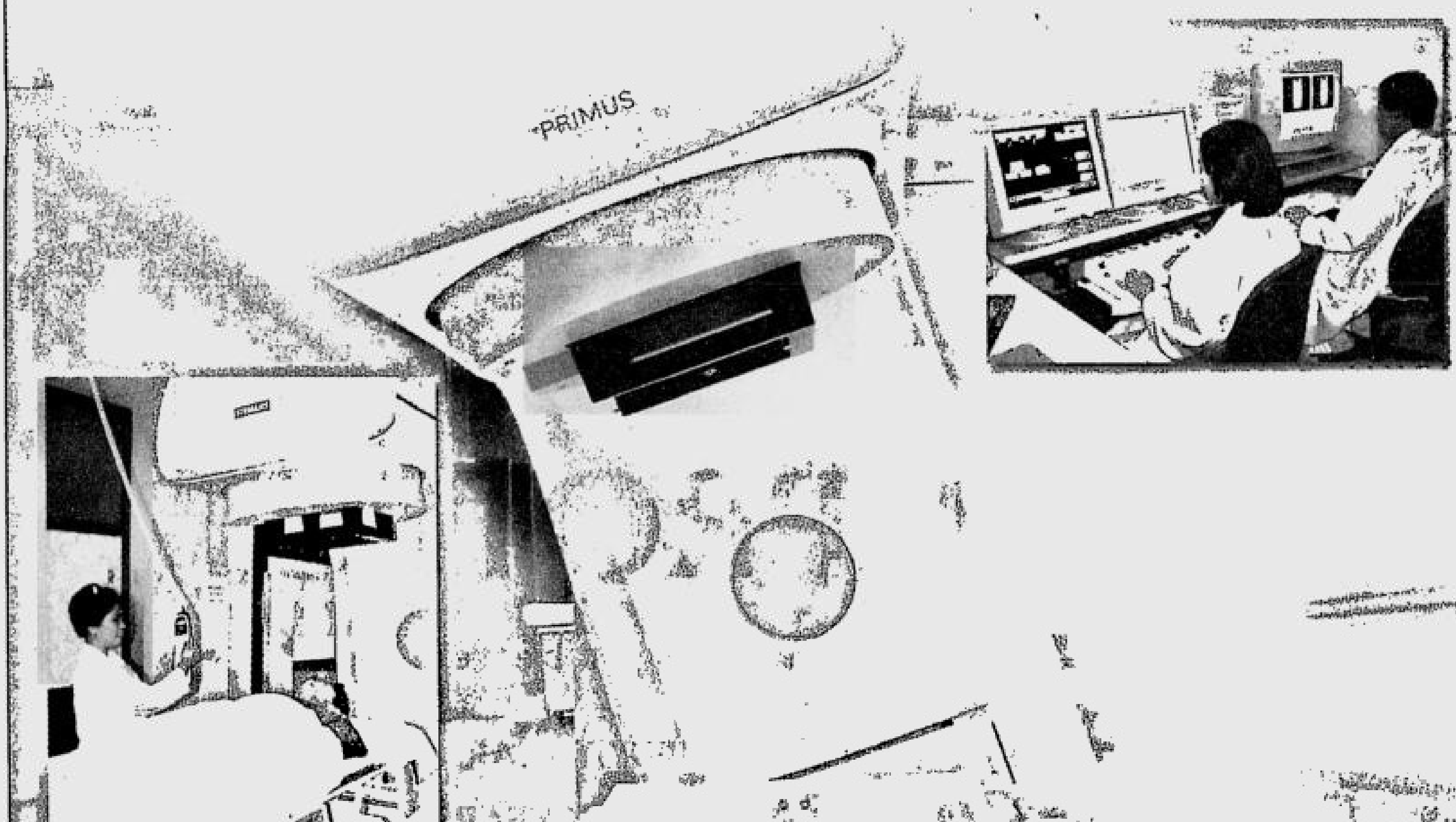
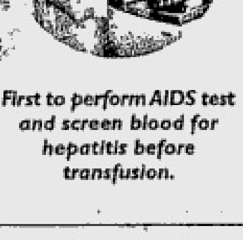


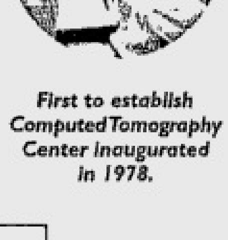
Inaugurates latest facility in cancer care, the most versatile and sophisticated Radiation Therapy unit of its kind.

The MMC Radiation Oncology facility has further expanded its radiation therapy services via the acquisition of a second linear accelerator, the Siemens Primus. As the premier hospital in the country, MMC pioneered in healthcare technology introducing many firsts in the medical industry, among them:

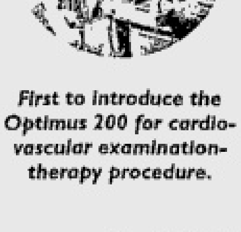
First to establish biggest and most advanced Nuclear Medicine Department.



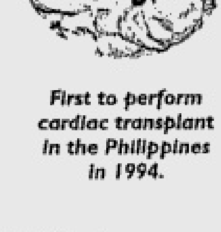
First to perform AIDS test and screen blood for hepatitis before transfusion.



First to establish Computed Tomography Center inaugurated in 1978.



First to introduce the Optimus 200 for cardiovascular examination-therapy procedure.



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Our Lady of Guadalupe: Patroness of MMC

On December 12, 2001 a 6-foot high image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was installed at the MMC main lobby. There it stands as guardian and protector of the center. She is there to remind us that She never fails to look after everyone who asks for her intercession. The image also adds a new dimension to MMC's commitment to promote spiritual wholeness, in addition to caring for the patient's physical and emotional needs.

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MVP fights for survival

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE SALIMS of Indonesia have agreed to sell their controlling shareholding in PLDT and Fort Bonifacio in favor of taipan John Gokongwei apparently over the objection of the Salims' point man in the Philippines, PLDT/Bonifacio Land CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan, this we have gathered from official sources.

MVP arrived from Tokyo yesterday afternoon, where he was supposed to have met with PLDT partner NTT to appraise them of the Gokongwei-Salim deal.

In effect, the low-key Salims have decided to cut their losses and agreed to sell their crown jewels in the Philippines to an offshore company controlled by Gokongwei.

The hush-hush deal was apparently hatched by Gokongwei and the Salims themselves; both parties have already signed a memorandum of agreement unaided by the usual coterie of investment bankers.

According to the grapevine, MVP was present, despite his objections, during the final stages of the negotiation, which was concluded overseas last week, apparently in Hong Kong.

Gokongwei came to know the Salims during the Erap years when the taipan acquired the latter's stake in United Industrial Corp., which controls Singapore Land, the Ayalas of Singapore.

The Salims' empire in the Philippines is controlled by the Hong Kong-listed First Pacific Group through the locally listed Metro Pacific Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and its related telecom companies.

According to the grapevine, the Salims and their foreign executives have been unhappy over the languishing share price of First Pacific because of its overexposure in the Philippines. This has driven a wedge between Salim son, Anthony, and MVP, despite MVP and his band of Filipino executives having parlayed First Pacific from an obscure investment house from the late '70s into a regional although ailing powerhouse that it is now.

At the instance of MVP, First Pacific bet big on the region's and the Philippines' recovery after the 1997 currency crisis, reallocating close to two-thirds of First Pacific's investment in the Philippines to PLDT and its affiliated telecom companies and Fort Bonifacio.

But the disastrous Estrada presidency, the collapse of the peso, and Piltel's multibillion-peso sinkhole have reduced First Pacific's investments by, as in the case of PLDT, as much as two-thirds.

What could throw a monkey's wrench to the Gokongwei-Salim deal, at least on the PLDT portion, is that NTT has a right of first refusal over the contested PLDT shares.

Sources close to Pangilinan said MVP has been studying the option of making a counter-offer, a management buyout, possibly in alliance with NTT and PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr.

A special PLDT board meeting was called yesterday afternoon, specifically to discuss the ramifications of the Gokongwei-Salim deal. Today, MVP is also calling for a special board meeting of Metro Pacific Corp.

If he pushes through with the management buyout plan, MVP would be following the footsteps of his long-time ally, ex-Metro Pacific president Ricardo Pascua, who left the group in January after making an unsuccessful bid to acquire the Fort Bonifacio project.

However, a major stumbling block to this game plan is that Gokongwei has put forward an all-or-nothing proposal to the Salims to acquire both PLDT and Bonifacio Land, which would make it a two-front war for MVP if he so chooses to engage the combined financial muscle of his principals and Gokongwei.

Gokongwei left yesterday afternoon to an undisclosed overseas destination to meet again with the Salims.

As early as Monday, the Gokongwei-Salim deal has started filtering to the stock market, with the number of PLDT shares traded in the stock market that day jumping nearly four times from the previous Thursday and Friday volumes.

Out of the 180,000 PLDT shares traded Monday, 57,000 were acquired by RCBC Securities. The Monday before, only 60,770 PLDT shares changed hands.

Jockey Lucio

TAIPAN Lucio Tan has taken on wearing a new hat these days, that of a real estate jockey.

According to the grapevine, the Kapitan is the beneficial owner of a new company that acquired about 6 hectares out of the 25.6-ha Sta. Ana racetrack.

The way it was announced to the stock market, the listed Philippine Racing Club Inc., the race track operator, sold its majority interest in the property firm to a new group of investors.

In reality, it was a dacion en pago conducted by the taipan's Allied Bank over the obligations of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu.

The race track is being redeveloped into another commercial-residential district.

Heard through the grapevine

PRESIDENTIAL Adviser Gloria Tan-Climaco, whose arrest has been ordered by the overzealous Commission on Appointments, has been staying in San Francisco, nursing a sick son. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Gov't prepares $1.1-B borrowing for Napocor

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is preparing to borrow as much as $1.1 billion in behalf of National Power Corp. to help the power firm raise its remaining requirements for this year.

The planned debt size ranging from $900 million to $1.1 billion would include $350 million in additional funds to cover the suspension of the purchased power adjustment.

Before President Macapagal initiated the PPA suspension, Napocor needed to raise between $1.5 billion and $1.65 billion this year to fund its capital requirements.

Malacañang had said that starting June, Napocor would bring down to 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour the cost of the PPA—the electricity charge that covers fluctuations in the foreign exchange rate, fuel prices, and the cost of electricity generated by the so-called independent power producers.

A senior finance official said that after the PPA suspension was announced, Napocor's requirements had ballooned. "Now it has to raise between $900 million and $1.1 billion to complete its foreign financing," the official said.

Investment banks were given until today to submit a proposal. The Asian Development Bank has agreed in principle to guarantee a portion of the Napocor borrowing.

The finance official said prospective underwriters must submit two structures, one for a direct Napocor borrowing and another for a national government debt whose proceeds would be relent to the power firm.

The finance official said the government was likely to take up the borrowing again for Napocor because it would be cheaper. In February, the power firm was prevented from borrowing about $500 million directly when investors required a premium of as much as one percentage point over a similar government borrowing.

"We want to get the cheapest proposal and the one that would maximize the ADB guarantee the most," said the finance official.

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BOI, PEZA REGISTRATIONS

4-mo investments down 67%

THE BOARD of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) registered some P6.61 billion worth of investments in April, representing a 131.9-percent increase from P2.85 billion in the same month last year.

This brought total investments in the first four months of the year to P15.14 billion, which was, however, lower by 66.8 percent than the P44.28 billion registered in the same period last year.

A telecommunication facility upgrading project of Globe Telecom and a food processing complex, to support the operations of Jollibee food chain, were the two biggest projects approved by the BOI last month. The two accounted for P3.92 billion or 59 percent of the total investments in April.

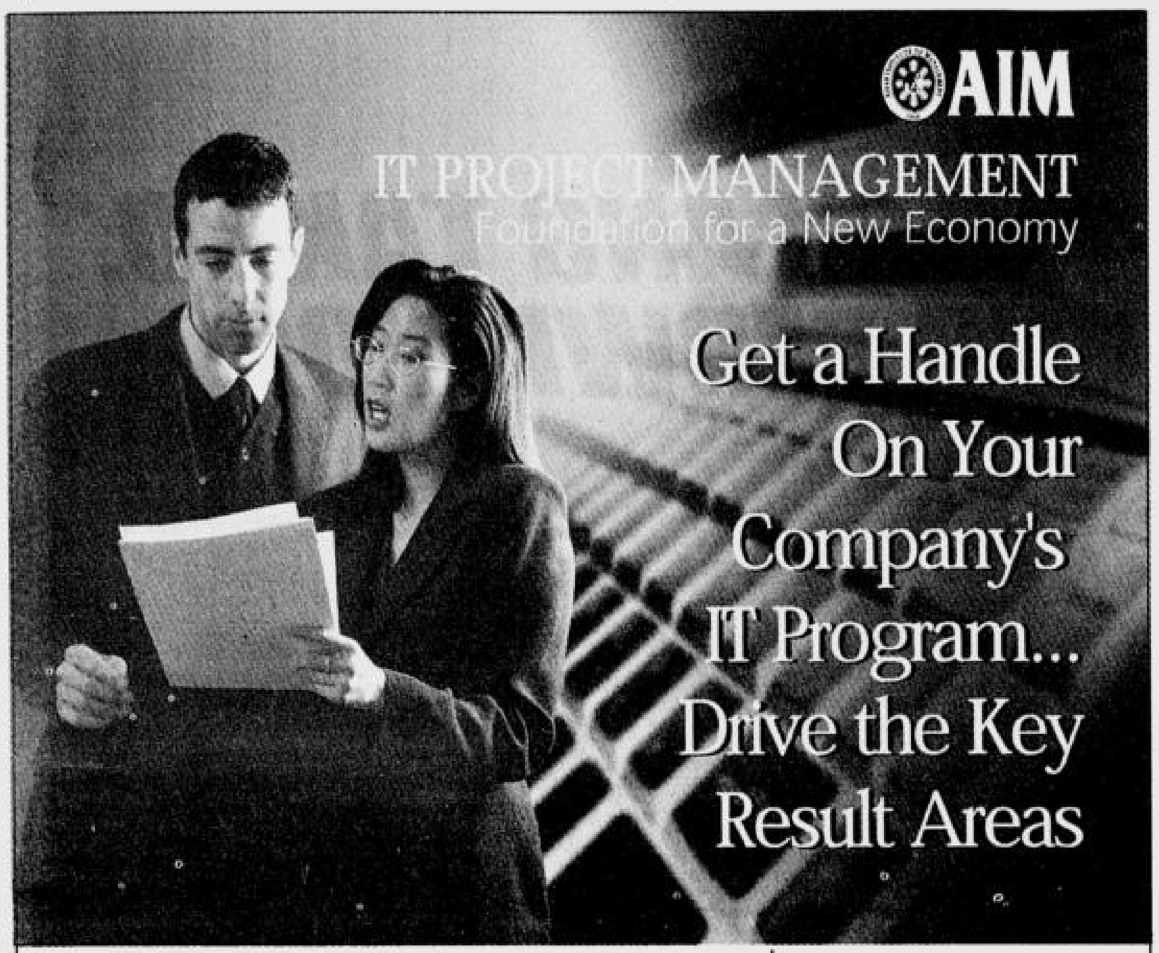
"Much of the 27,903 jobs that could be created out of these investment decisions would come from the smaller projects," Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said. He noted that despite the drop in total investments during the first four months of the year compared to that of the same period last year, this year's projects had the potential of generating more jobs. Last year's projects were expected to create 26,645 jobs. The projects of Globe and the Jollibee subsidiary are expected to generate employment for 553 people.

Globe Telecom is investing P2.3 billion to put up a cable landing station in Nasugbu, Batangas, for its City to City (C2C) Cable Network, the latest international telecommunications cable network. The landing station will be connected to Metro Manila by direct buried fiber optic cable.

"We are glad that our telecommunications companies are continuously upgrading their facilities thus ensuring unhampered flow of information between our country and the rest of the world," Roxas said. "State-of-the-art telecommunication facilities are indispensable if we must be competitive in the global economy," he added. He noted that last year's investment figures was also buoyed by huge investments in the telecommunications sector when BOI approved the P17 billion expansion project of Smart Communications which was putting up 730 cell sites for its GSM network nationwide.

Zenith Foods Corp., a 100 percent Filipino-owned company, is putting

4-MO INVESTMENTS/ B7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SPEAKERS FOR THIS PROGRAM

TOMMY B. LOPEZ is a core faculty mentor in AIM's Master in Management Program. He is the Institutes Guru of Services Marketing and the emerging field of One-to-One Marketing. His areas of specialization include Information Technology, Social Marketing, Development Communication, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, and Strategic Management.

GASTON D. ORTIGAS, JR. serves on the core faculty of the Master in Development Management and the Master in Business Management programs. He teaches Total Quality Management, Operations Management, and Information Management. Among his current research areas of interest are Sustainable Enterprise Management, Electronic Commerce, Knowledge Management and Flexible Learning Methodologies

RICKY A. LIM is Associate Professor for the MBM program of AIM since 1991, conducting classes and seminars in Information Technology, Knowledge Management, and Business Communications. He is a doctoral candidate at the Marshall School of Business at University of Southern California. His dissertation topic is on "Cognitive Maps in ISD Teams".

JOSE JESUS F. ROCES is a member of the core faculty of the Center for Executive Education and Lifelong Learning. His areas of specialization encompass Marketing, Finance and Human Resource Development, with particular emphasis on the strategic marketing, e-marketing, and CRM

ARMI RUBY MARIE H. CORTES is a member of the core faculty at the Center for Executive Education and Lifelong Learning. She teaches Information Technology Management, e-Commerce, and e-Governance. She is an active IT industry specialist for DAI-Agila, an organization under the umbrella of the USAID

ARMI DE GUZMAN-TREÑAS is an adjunct faculty of AIM. She was formerly deputy president for the IT Division of Transnational Diversified Group, initiating the development and implementation of the company's business process outsourcing, call center, and e-training operations. She has a Master in Management from AIM, graduating with distinction in May 1999

ARUP MAITY Mr. Maity is the founder and current president and CEO of Blastasia Inc., a leading provider of Internet-based Customer Relationship Management solutions. Arup has been involved in every aspect of setting up the business. His organizational abilities and his understanding of the different Internet programming languages have helped in the conceptualization and implementation of the Blastasia software modules. In addition to his responsibilities as CEO, he also heads its R&D group. Mr. Maity completed his MBA from the Asian Institute of Management in 1997.

EDGARDO B. HERBOSA founded b2bpricenow.com, the Philippines' first e-trade site, which enables cooperatives and SMEs in the agriculture sector to harness the benefits of information and communication technology in development. Mr. Herbosa has a Master's degree in International Management from The American Graduate School of International Management in Thunderbird, Texas. He is Director for Education in the Philippine Internet Computer Society and an adjunct faculty of AIM

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Injustices against OFWs

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

WOE unto us, hypocrites. We call the OFWs heroes only for their dollar remittances. But we've neglected them, allowed them to be exploited and oppressed. Some government officials even allegedly misused the money collected from the OFWs. Many of them died, were tortured, raped and maimed. And we all pay lip service to their cause.

Said the Supreme Court in a recent case: "It is sad enough that poverty has impelled many of our countrymen to seek greener pasture in foreign lands. But what is more lamentable is when a Filipino recruiter, after sending his unlettered countrymen to a foreign land and letting them suffer inhuman treatment in the hands of abusive employers, connives with the foreign employers in denying them their rightful compensation. Surely, there shall be a day of reckoning for such a recruiter whose insatiable love for money made him a tyrant to his own race." (M. Hornales vs. NLRC, GR 118943, 10 Sept. 2001.)

Flight stewardess' damages

A Filipina cabin attendant of Cathay Pacific Airways based in Hong Kong was illegally dismissed allegedly on ground of sickness. Her dismissal was not based on the required certification as mandated under Article 284 of the Labor Code. It was allegedly a swift and imprudent decision made on the very day of the diagnosis.

Thus, the arbiter awarded her backwages in the amount of HK$531,150.80; HK$54,137.70 in benefits; HK$100,000 in actual damages plus moral and exemplary damages, with HK$168,528.85 for the attorney's fees. Furthermore, Cathay was ordered to reinstate the Filipina to her position as airline stewardess without loss of seniority rights, benefits and privileges. (Cathay vs. NLRC, GR 141702-03, 02 August 2001.)

Seamen's heartaches

A Filipino radio officer was hired by an ocean-going vessel. While the vessel was docked in New Zealand, he got sick. His worsening health condition was brought up to the attention of the master of the vessel by his crewmates. However, instead of disembarking him, so that he may receive immediate medical attention, the master proceeded to Manila, a voyage of 10 days, during which time his health rapidly deteriorated.

Upon arrival, the gravely ill seaman was not immediately disembarked and was made to wait for several hours. He was brought to the hospital only because of the relatives' initiatives. Upon his discharge, his employer refused to pay the bills. The arbiter awarded him $26,137 in disability and sickness benefits. Both the NLRC and the appellate court affirmed the grant of another P50,000 for exemplary damages.

Moral and exemplary damages

The Supreme Court also affirmed an additional award of P50,000 for moral damages because of the physical sufferings and mental anguish suffered by the seaman. The exemplary damages were aimed at serving as a deterrent against socially deleterious actions. (German Marine Agencies, et al. vs. NLRC, GR 142049, 30 January 2001.)

In another case, the court awarded $15,000 in disability benefits and other grants to the heirs of a seaman who died due to a heart disease aggravated by his work. (Seagull vs. NLRC, GR 123619, 8 June 2000)

Sad tales from Saudi

O. Sevillana worked as driver in Jeddah for $370 a month. Upon arrival, he was only paid $100. Without waiting for the expiration of his two-year contract, his employer forcibly repatriated him. In 1989, the POEA awarded him $3,240 for salary differentials; $4,400 for salaries corresponding to the unexpired portion of his contract, $2,369 for his return airfare and 5 percent of all of the above for attorney's fees. (O. Sevillana vs. I.T. Corp., GR 9909047, 16 April. 2001)

This is one of the hundreds of cases that our OFWs have to fight and spend money for. Justice is still delayed and expensive. The Supreme Court affirmed the POEA decision.

Exporter of domestics

The high court decided in favor of a domestic helper: "The protection of our overseas worker is especially necessary because of the xxx risks they have to undergo in their quests for a better life in foreign lands away from their loved ones and their own government. (C.V. Cruz vs. NLRC, GR 983273, 26 Oct. 1991.)

Our OFWs "are mostly ordinary laborers not conversant with legal principles. xxx They have no compatriot lawyers to consult and no labor union to support them in foreign land. Their complaints should thus be received with sympathy conformably with the constitutional mandate for the protection of the working class. (R. Prieto vs. NLRC, GR 93699, 10 September 1993)

Government failures

The court stressed: "Our overseas workers constitute an exploited class. Most of them come from the poorest sector of our society. They are thoroughly disadvantaged. They live in suffocating slums, trapped in an environment of crimes. Hardly literate and ill health, their only hopes lie in jobs they can hardly find in our country. (E. Chavez vs. Perez, GR 109808, 01 Mar. 1995.)

"Their unfortunate circumstances make them easy preys to avaricious employers." (Ibid) "If the agencies created to protect our overseas workers can only pay lip service to the cause of protecting their rights, these agencies should at least avoid causing them greater anguish and misfortune." (Sta. Rita vs. NLRC, GR 112850, 27 June 1995.)

Betrayal of the OFWs

In the Chavez case, the court declared: "One of the anguished cries in our society today is that, while our laws appear to protect the poor, their interpretation is sometimes anti-poor. xxx There is no greater disappointment to the poor than to discover the ugly reality behind the beautiful rhetoric of laws. We will not allow this travesty."

And what greater travesty, what more despicable betrayal can be done if the OWWA, like the GSIS and the SSS, is proven (if ever) of misusing workers' contributions, giving officials outrageous salaries, perks, discretionary funds and retirement pensions while the workers who own this money die of poverty each day. Think deeply about these. And act accordingly.

Megaworld gets $25-M IFC loan for IT projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MEGAWORLD group has obtained a $25-million long-term loan from the International Finance Corp. to fund information technology projects in its flagship Eastwood City Cyberpark.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Megaworld Corp. spokesperson Francisco Canuto said wholly owned subsidiary Eastwood Cyber One Corp. (ECOC) had contracted the loan from IFC.

IFC is the investment arm of multilateral lender World Bank, which extends loans and equity financing for private sector projects in developing countries.

Under the loan agreement, IFC will extend the 10-year loan with a three-year grace period while Megaworld will guarantee the loan's punctual payment.

ECOC is a pioneer in IT park development in the Philippines.

Earlier, Megaworld announced that it would develop a 5-hectare property bought from Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., a unit of Metro Pacific Corp.

Megaworld has tied up with consortium Bonifacio West Development Corp., led by company president Carlos Rufino, which announced recently that it had bought the block for P2.5 billion.

The property is in Bonifacio Global City, a 150-ha mixed-use site near the Makati business district, being developed by Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

"A consortium led by Carlos Rufino and Megaworld Corp. have agreed in principle that Megaworld will develop the 5-ha property at the Fort Bonifacio Global City which the consortium recently acquired from the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp," Megaworld told the Philippine Stock Exchange in a disclosure.

It added, however, that it was still finalizing terms with the Rufino-led consortium over the joint venture pact.

Robinsons Land sets aside ₱3B to ₱4B for capex in '02

ROBINSONS Land Corp. of the Gokongwei family is earmarking between P3 billion and P4 billion for capital expenditures fiscal year ending September.

The amount will be used to finance primarily the completion of four malls.

RLC chair James Go said that P2 billion of the capital expenditure requirement for the current fiscal year would come from the company's own funds while the rest would be raised through pre-selling.

RLC hopes to complete this year its malls in Cavite, Laguna and Cagayan.

In the meantime, RLC senior vice president Frederick Go said that RLC and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. should finalize its agreement to jointly develop a six-hectare property at the Bonifacio Global City within 60 days.

He estimated that the project could cost as much as P10 billion over the next several years considering that the development would include a mall, residential buildings and a hotel.

FBDC will provide the land while RLC would develop the property.

In a statement, RLC said it would restructure its high-rise building division to make a "vehicle for horizontal and vertical real estate projects that target middle to high-end markets."

PSE adopts safeguards against unfair trading

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has assured the Securities and Exchange Commission that it was strengthening safeguards to prevent another BW Resources insider trading scandal.

The SEC early this month closed the chapter on the administrative cases against several stockbrokers over the BW Resources scandal. It, however, called on the PSE and Philippine Central Depository to ensure that a similar fiasco would not happen again.

In a letter to SEC Chair Lilia Bautista dated May 28, PSE president Ernest Leung said the PSE would soon start testing an electronic disclosure system to ensure broader access and timely release of market information to the investing public.

To prevent unfair and improper trading practices, Leung said the bourse had done the following:

- Augmented the personnel of regulatory departments to ensure that there were trained professionals to administer and monitor the market.
- Put in place a new surveillance system with expanded parameters to monitor unusual stock trading movements.
- Adopted, through the Securities Clearing Company of the Philippines, a rule to require, for volatile issues, the early settlement of transactions by brokers to mitigate settlement risk.

"Recognizing our shared responsibilities and common objectives as an SRO, we look forward to greater consultation with the Commission on its trading rules in order to avoid misunderstandings," Leung said.

"We look forward to regularizing the meeting initiated last month between members of the commission and directors of the exchange that may be pursued at different levels to include dialogue between the various departments of the commission and their counterparts at the exchange," he added.

The SEC recently entered into compromise settlements with the 75 brokers and individuals sued by the commission. Under the compromise, the SEC dropped the administrative cases against them in exchange for a total of P12 million.

The SEC, however, is still pursuing criminal cases against some of these brokers and individuals over alleged manipulation of BW shares. The cases are still pending in regional trial courts.

The BW scandal took a heavy toll on the country's economy as it eroded confidence in the capital market and "burned" many investors in the gaming and leisure firm.

4-mo investments down 67%

From page B6

up a P1.67-billion agricultural and food processing center in Camelray Industrial Park in Canlubang, Laguna. The processed meat, marine products, fruits, sauces and cereal-based products that Zenith will be producing will be supplied to all Jollibee food stores nationwide.

The biggest project approved by Peza during the month was the P302-million project of Fujimoto International Technology Corp., a Japanese-Filipino company engaged in processing and subcontracting of the assembly of dust sensor, paper-size sensors, optical mini-jack, photo interrupter, infrared emitting diodes, VSR & SSR.

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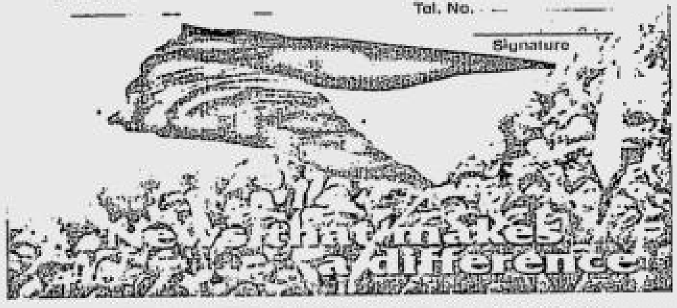
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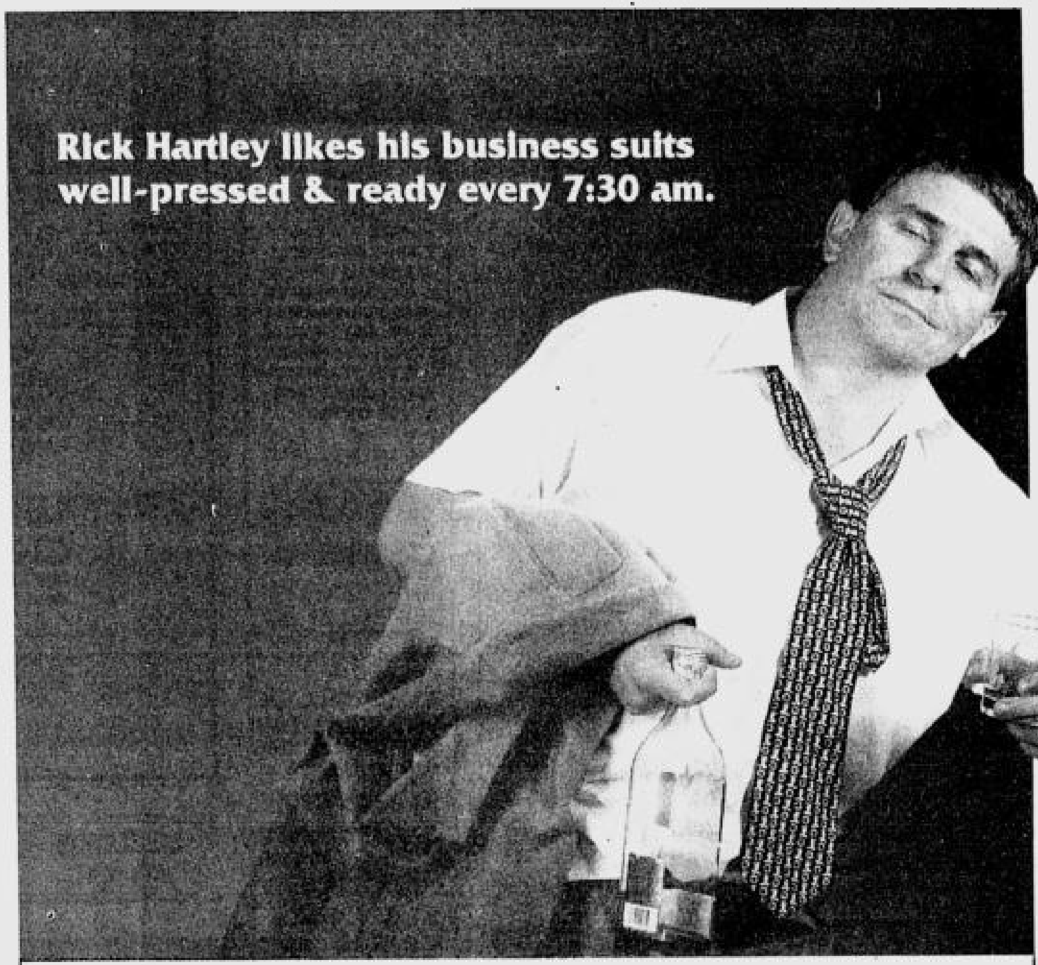
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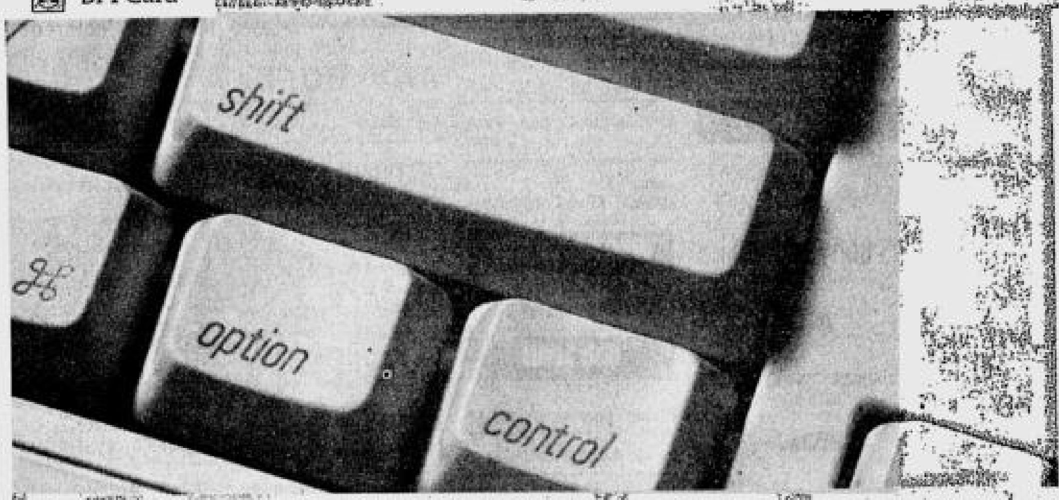

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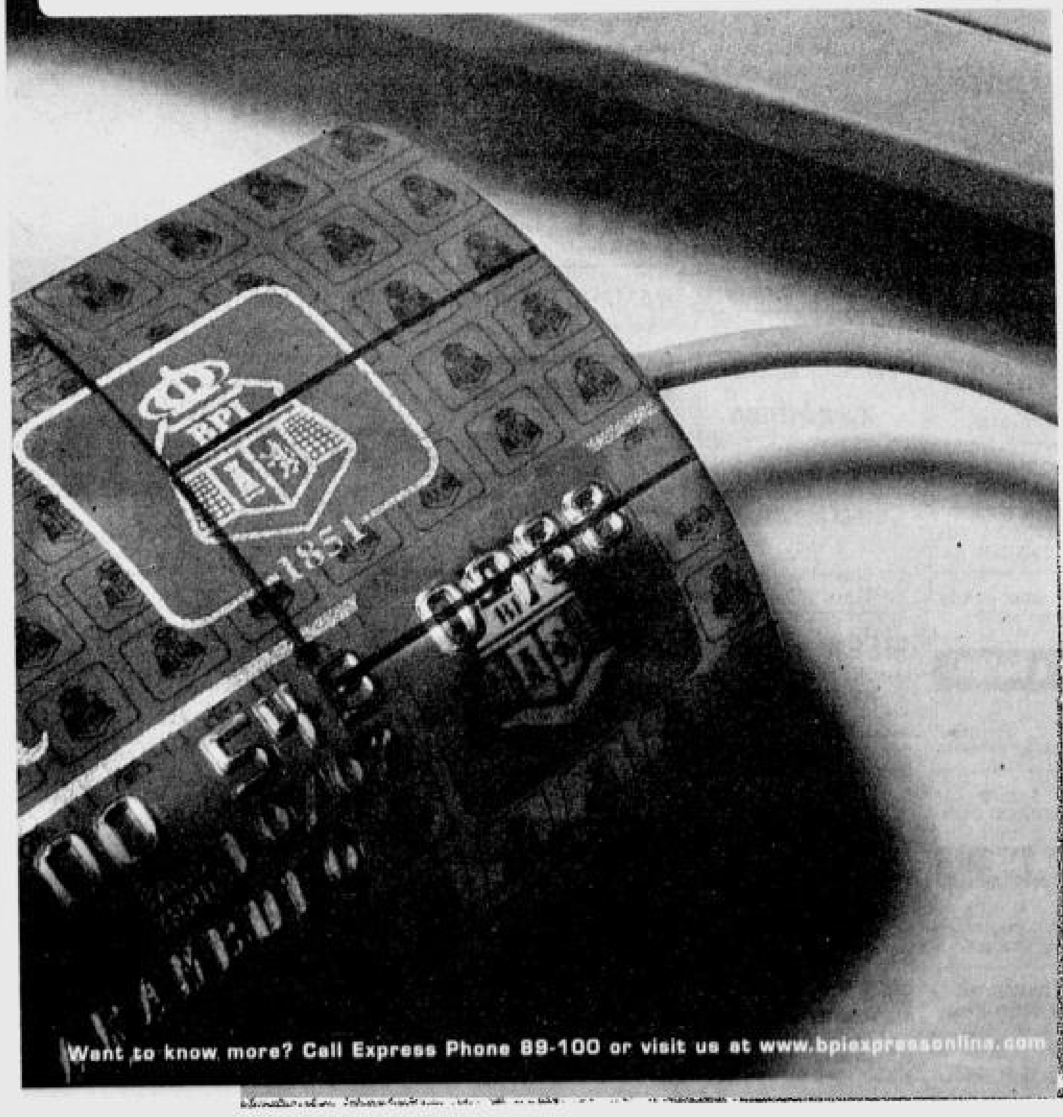
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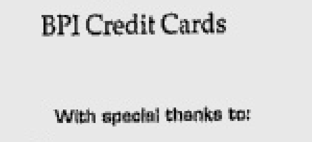

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the intestate estate of the late PILAR BANAAG was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc#11, Page#4, Book#LIV, Series of 2001 under Not. Pub. Ramon M. Medina of Taal, Batangas. (PDI- May 17 24 & 31 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given on the lost of 30 shares of stock certificate of Rural Bank of Cabuyao, Inc issued to RAMON G. MERCADO. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued (PDI-May 31, 2002)

PERSONAL

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT OLC

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT SJL

Bakeshop cooks up success from 'old ways'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

MENTION the name "Reyes" and Filipinos automatically associate it with good food.

There is the famous Aristocrat restaurant founded by the equally famous Aling Asiang, Alex III, the Mama Sita line of food products, and add to that the Aristocrat Bakeshop set up 25 years ago by third-generation member Delia Reyes-Zaldarriaga.

Zaldarriaga told the INQUIRER that baking came naturally to her, having been a dedicated apprentice in her mother's kitchen since she was in fifth grade. She loved experimenting with her own recipes and was soon able to come up with mouth-watering cakes and pastries that met even the high standards of her relatives.

The 60-year-old granddaughter of Aling Asiang was already put to work as the party and catering manager of Aristocrat restaurant when she broached the idea of putting up the bakeshop, and she was immediately encouraged to pursue her dream.

First steps

Her first products were desserts, like sylvanas and cheese rolls, empanadas and unique cakes, such as the Canonigo, Alexander Torte, Torta de los Reyes and the delightfully sinful Chocolate Supreme, Black Forest cakes and cheese cakes.

The first bakeshop was put up right next to the Aristocrat restaurant along Roxas Boulevard. Last year, another branch was set up on Jupiter corner Saturn streets in Bel-Air Village, Makati, which Zaldarriaga manages with her cousin, Marian Reyes.

Delia is the general manager who oversees sales, production, quality control, business development and marketing, while Marian is officer in charge of the Jupiter branch and handles research and development.

Family lessons

Like her cousin Delia, Reyes practically grew up in the kitchen. Her fondest memories were summers spent at the Aristocrat learning the basics of food preparation and cooking. She developed her sharp taste buds by working with her maternal grandmother who taught her Kapampangan dishes, her paternal grandmother who taught her the basics, mother Azucena who taught her bulk cooking and father Alex Jr. who exposed her to the world of food.

Before joining the family business, she combined her cooking skills and entrepreneurship, putting up La Truffe Divine Confections, which made a unique line of handmade chocolate truffles.

From there, she joined Aristocrat focusing on research and development, recipe enhancement and development of the catering department.

The cousins are proud to say that almost all of the products that have sold well 25 years ago continue to do well to this year, and this they attribute to their painstaking attention to detail and the willingness to bake the cakes the old and hard way.

Unadulterated ways

"It pays to stick to the old and unadulterated ways. The now and the then and the in-between successes that I have earned come from being in love with the business to the point of being obsessed with it. I'm doing all these for the great love of a legacy," says Zaldarriaga.

Reyes adds that the products of Aristocrat bakeshop are the real thing and made the way our forefathers made it—no short cuts and no substitutes.

"Our cakes are delicious, the flavors are balanced, textures are well combined and most importantly, there are no artificial flavorings and preservatives. We believe our customers should get their money's worth. When I see the customers enjoying every morsel of our baked products, I feel sheer joy and fulfillment for the hard work that we at the bakeshop put into these creations," Reyes stresses.

Paying for the difference

Zaldarriaga says the quality ingredients and the long process of baking these cakes make their products more expensive than the competitors, sometimes by as much as 40 percent. She, however, says that there are still those who are willing to pay the difference for the better product.

Far from sitting on their laurels, Zaldarriaga and Reyes continue to develop new products to cater to the Filipinos' decidedly sweet tooth, but they admit that it takes some time before an idea becomes an actual cake in the display shelf.

"In keeping with tradition, the products are subjected to the taste test of the family members. The result are cakes, pastries and breads served simply by themselves or with a dollop of ice cream, enjoyed with a cup of your favorite coffee or tea, as a snack, or perfect as a finale to a meal," Zaldarriaga says.

A CUSTOMER surveys Aristocrat Bakeshop's handmade classics.

Filinvest Land draws penalties for late disclosure

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is fining Filinvest Land Inc., property arm of the Gotianun family, for late disclosures regarding P1.2 billion worth of convertible bonds that it issued to a unit of the Singaporean government.

In a briefing for analysts and reporters yesterday, Filinvest Land president and chief operating officer Joseph Yap said the company would contest the fine.

The PSE has ordered Filinvest Land to pay at least P200,000 representing P50,000 for each disclosure violation and an additional P1,000 for each day of delay in compliance.

Filinvest Land announced in February that it agreed to issue P1.2 billion worth of convertible bonds to Reco Grandhomes, a subsidiary of GIC Real Estate Pte Ltd. of Singapore, at a conversion price of as much as P1.875 a share.

The price was way below the prevailing market price at that time.

In reaction to the news, Filinvest Land's share prices plunged, leading many investors to lose money.

Subsequently, a group of 30 brokers then questioned, among others, the late disclosure of the transaction given that negotiations for the bond deal had started months before.

Yap reported, meanwhile, that Filinvest Land would likely post flat profits this year, although revenues were targeted to reach P2.4 billion this year.

He also said the property firm would set aside some P800 million to as much as P1 billion to cover its capital expenditures and complete its ongoing projects.

He said the capex figure was basically the same as last year's, and that it would be financed internally.

"Our forecast is we will be able to generate sufficient cash flow internally to cover the capex and, in the very unlikely event we can't, we have a couple of alternatives," Yap said.

He said the alternatives included tapping state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines for development loans or issuing long-term commercial papers for as much as P1 billion.

Filinvest Land earlier secured authority from the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue LTCPs worth as much as P1 billion by Nov. 12 this year.

Yap said the capex would be used to fund completion of ongoing projects and start of new ones.

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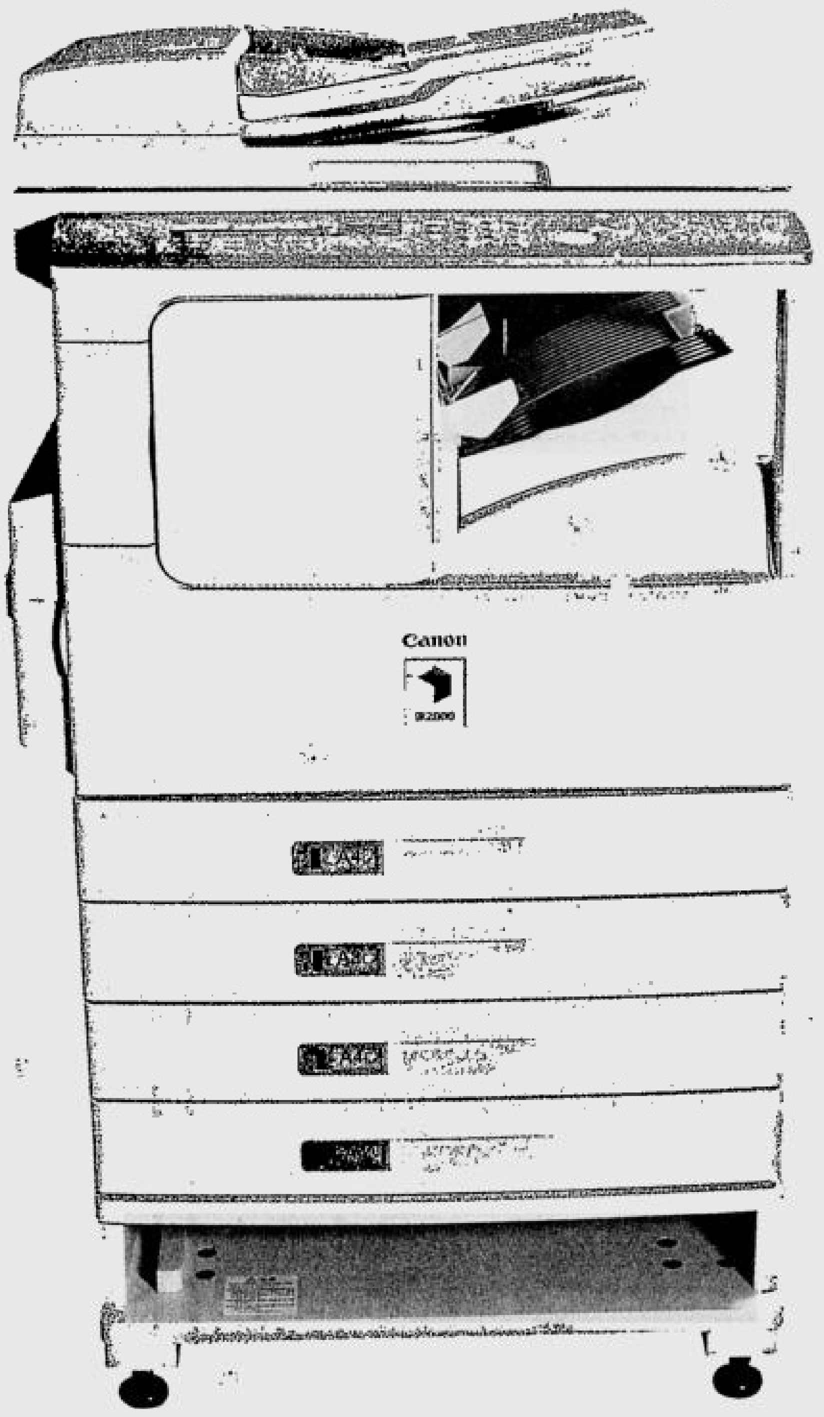

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1444 Series of 2002

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Compostela Valley
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Nabunturan, Compostela Valley

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Provincial Government of Compostela Valley invites interested CONTRACTORS to apply for prequalification and after being prequalified to bid for the following project:

A.) Name of Project: Construction of People's Cultural and Sports Arena Phase 1
B.) Scope of Work: Construction of Foundation, Columns and portion of Superstructure
C.) Required PCAB: Gen. Building Triple A-Medium B
D.) Estimated Project Cost: P24,343,036.73
E.) Source of Funds: Local Funds
F.) Submission of letter of intent: June 10-11, 2002
G.) Distribution of PRE C1 Forms: June 20-21, 2002

Available at PBAC Secretariat, Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province.

H.) Deadline of submission of accomplished PRE-C 1 Forms at PBAC Secretariat: June 24-25, 2002
I.) Notification of Pre-qualified Contractor: July 2, 2002
J.) Credit Line Commitment: P2,434,303.67
K.) Distribution of Bid Documents: July 9, 2002

Plans, Bid Documents and List of Minimum Equipment requirement of the project are available for issuance to prospective bidders at the Planning and Programming Division, Provincial Engineer's Office, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province upon presentation of letter of intent and original copy of contractors' License, Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors (CRC-C) and certified photocopies of these documents for authentication and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00)

L.) Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference at the Provincial Governor's Office, Cabidianan, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province will be on July 16, 2002 at 1:00 PM.

Sealed bids will be received by the PBAC until 1:15 o'clock in the afternoon on July 30, 2002 at the Provincial Governor's Office, Cabidianan, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province which will be publicly opened at 1:15 PM of the same date in accordance with the requirements of the bid documents.

The Provincial Government of Compostela Valley reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect (formality or technicality) in such bids and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

For more information, please contact Atty. Anesio M. Ranario, Provincial Administrator (Tel. No. [084] 822-0432, Cel. No. 0919-2730874).

(Sgd.) **JOSE R. CABALLERO**
Governor

(PDI--May 30, 31 & June 4, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Manila

April 22, 2002

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 102 s. 2002

SUBJECT: **Schedule of Fees for Certain Services Rendered by the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services**

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 70-A s. 2002 Section 15: "A non-refundable fee shall be charged for application for permit to construct, for registration, for license to operate and for renewal of license to operate government and private hospitals and other health facilities", the Department of Health prescribes the schedule of fees for the following services rendered by the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services for compliance:

1. Permit to Construct

Classification	Fee
First Level Referral Hospital *(Secondary)*	P 500.00
Second Level Referral Hospital *(Tertiary)*	P 750.00
Third Level Referral Hospital *(Tertiary)*	P1,000.00
Infirmary *(Primary)*	P 300.00
Birthing Home	P 300.00
Acute-Chronic Psychiatric Care Facility	P 500.00
Custodial Psychiatric Care Facility	P 300.00

2. License to Operate

Classification	Fees	
	Initial	Renewal
First Level Referral Hospital *(Secondary)*	P1,000.00	P 500.00
Second Level Referral Hospital *(Tertiary)*	P2,000.00	P1,000.00
Third Level Referral Hospital *(Tertiary)*	P3,000.00	P1,500.00
Infirmary *(Primary)*	P 750.00	P 375.00
Birthing Home	P 750.00	P 375.00
Acute-Chronic Psychiatric Care Facility	P1,000.00	P 500.00
Custodial Psychiatric Care Facility	P 750.00	P 375.00

3. Other Fees

Registration Fee *(for all new health facilities)*	P 200.00
Certification Fee	P 50.00

(Sgd.) MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary of Health

(PDI -- May 31, 2002)

Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas
Department of Foreign Affairs

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION
PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (DFA-PBAC) invites all interested bidders to submit their bids for the Security Services Contract for the security requirements of the DFA's ten (10) Regional Consular Offices (RCOs).

The detailed Terms of Reference, Draft Contract and Bid Requirements for the RCO Security Services may be obtained from the PBAC Secretariat, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Floor, DFA Building, 2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **31 May** to **14 June 2002** after payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00 to the Cashier of the Department.

Pre-qualification documents must be submitted in duplicate to the PBAC Secretariat on or before **21 June 2002**. For purposes of clarifying certain issues, Pre-Bid Meetings may be held upon determination by PBAC.

Sealed bids must be submitted to the PBAC Secretariat not later than 12:00 p.m. of **5 July 2002** and thereafter shall be publicly opened at 3:00 p.m. of the same day.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the Government. The Department assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Department also reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept the Contract.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN**
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs
and PBAC Chairperson

(PDI—May 31 & June 7, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Manila

May 20, 2002

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 118 s. 2002

SUBJECT: **Schedule of Fees for Certain Services Rendered by the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services**

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 59 s. 2001 Section 7: "A non-refundable fee shall be charged for application for permit to construct for license to operate and for renewal of license to operate government and private clinical laboratories," the Department of Health prescribes the schedule of fees for the following services rendered by the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services for compliance:

1. Permit to Construct (For non hospital based laboratory only.)

Classification of Clinical Laboratory	Fee
Primary Category	P 100.00
Secondary Category	P 200.00
Tertiary Category	P 300.00

2. License to Operate (For hospital and non hospital based laboratories)

Classification of Clinical Laboratory	Fee	
	Initial	Renewal
Primary Category	P 400.00	P 200.00
Secondary Category	P 600.00	P 300.00
Tertiary Category	P 1,000.00	P 500.00

This Order shall take effect immediately.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., M.Sc.**
Secretary of Health

(PDI - May 31, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF STA. LUCIA (Ilocos Sur), CORP. (RBSLC)

1. Pursuant to the commitment of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to promptly service claims for insured deposits, initial payoff operation will be conducted in the closed Rural Bank of Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur), Corp. for the settlement of insured deposits with balances of P10,000.00 and below. Depositors whose deposit balances are within the said amount are requested to proceed directly to the designated payoff sites on the dates indicated in the table below. Receiving and processing of claims are scheduled from Monday to Friday during office hours.

Branch	Payoff Site	Duration of Payoff
Sta. Lucia, Head Office and Sta. Cruz Branch	RB of Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur), Corp. - Head Office located along National Road Brgy. Barangobong, Sta. Lucia Ilocos Sur	May 31, 2002 to June 14, 2002

2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) bearing the depositor's specimen signature.

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
3. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur) Corp. is on **October 28, 2003**. After **October 28, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – May 30 & 31, 2002)

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OBITUARIES

Marlene Gonzales Abola

Died last May 25, 2002 in the Grace of the Lord.

Her family: husband **Ramon**; daughter **Anna Cristina**; sons **Javier Franco, Jose Paolo** and **Ramon Miguel**; brothers **Josue** and **Augusto**, and their families;

Asks for prayers and is thankful for the love that she exemplified, for the beauty she led us all to see and believe in, and for her strength that will continually bring all of us closer to each other.

Her remains lie in state at the Santa Maria Della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Road. She will be buried on Sunday, June 2, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after a funeral Mass at 2:00 PM.

CAPT. EDMUNDO N. INOCENTES (Ret.)

Philippine Airlines

Born November 11, 1936

Peacefully joined his Creator
on Tuesday, May 28, 2002 at the age of 65.

His loving wife **Imelda Cunanan**; parents **Filadelfo** (†) and **Salud** (†); parents-in-law **Joaquin** (†) and **Consuelo** (†) **Cunanan**; children **Edwin, Edward** and **Pot, Mi-Ann** and **Bert Lombos, Miles**; grandchildren **Gabrielle Therese** and **Isabel Clarisse**; brothers and sisters **Bella** (†), **Cora** and **Boy Morando, Jun** and **Marlett Garcia, Aida** and **Ted Capistrano, Gloria** and **Augusto Dacanay, Baldo** and **Aurora Dizon, Joji** and **Graziano Negroni**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Jun** and **Rose Poblete, Bong** and **Blessie Jimenez, Cecille** and **Ramon Escobar, Dory** and **Manny Gutierrez, Chiqui, Bernie** and **Butch de Jesus**; and other relatives and friends mourn his passing and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Memorial Chapel of Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City, where there will be a final Holy Mass on June 4, 2002, Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Interment follows immediately at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

In lieu of flowers, you may make a donation to Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary Manila.

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(John 11:25-26)

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CORAZON SEVILLA VIRAY

who passed on to eternal life on 31 May 1982

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

The Parish of the Lord Divine Mercy, *Sikatuna Village, Quezon City*	6:00 PM
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, *UP - Diliman, Quezon City*	6:00 PM
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary, *La Naval de Manila, Sto. Domingo Church*	6:00 PM
Santisimo Rosario Parish Church, *UST, España*	5:15 PM
Sta. Rita Parish Church, *Sta. Rita, Pampanga*	5:30 AM
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish Church, *San Luis, Pampanga*	6:00 AM
Holy Rosary Parish Church, *Angeles City, Pampanga*	7:00 AM

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

GEORGE L. CO (CHO CHUN)

Who peacefully joined his Creator on May 23, 2002

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those friends and relatives who comforted and condoled us, offered Masses and Prayers, sent flowers and cards of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and who in countless other ways helped us in our time of bereavement.

"We have found a home in the heart of true friends and relatives like you."

Margarita Perez Cahiwat

Traveled home to God
on May 28, at the age of 99.

Her children **Henrietta "Dolly"** and **Luis Miro; Dr. Paul** and **Nancy** (New Jersey, USA); **Robert**, and grandchildren **Rema, Philip, Patrick, Jamie** request relatives, brethren, friends and associates to pray for her Godspeed.

Her remains lie in state at the Doña Maxima Blas Museum (Malabon North UMC) Malabon City. Services at 1 pm on Saturday, June 1st. Interment at the Eternal Garden, Baesa, Kaloocan City.

**I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.**
John 14:6

VICTORIA MALLARI PANTIG

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on May 29, 2002 at the age of 89.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla F, Arlington East The Garden Chapels, 1354 C. Raymundo Avenue corner Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, June 1, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, 9:00 AM.

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Message of Thanks

**The Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of
Cherub Manpower, Inc.
Veraluz International Corporation
Veraluz Foundation, Inc.**
and
the family of the late

DOÑA LUZ DE VERA y JIMENEZ

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 26, 2002

Wish to express their heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers, mass cards, messages of sympathy, and made donations to Veraluz Foundation, Inc., and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted them in their hour of bereavement.

In honor of her loving memory, donations to the Foundation may be sent at No. 3998 Yague Street, Brgy. Tejeros, Pasong Tamo, Makati City, Tel. No. 757-23-44.

HON. RAMON BALTAZAR LEGASPI, M.D.

OF MAKATO AND KALIBO, AKLAN

**CONGRESSMAN (1987 TO 1992)
LONE DISTRICT OF AKLAN**

MAYOR, MUNICIPALITY OF MAKATO, AKLAN (1971 TO 1980)

Peacefully joined his Creator on Saturday, 25th of May 2002 at the age of 74.

His beloved wife **Dr. Jacinta Salazar Legaspi**; children **Randall Anselmo, Ramon Gabriel (Jun)** and **Mitos, Ma. Rufina Encarnacion (Pinky)** and **Roberto E. Manuel**; and all his grandchildren; brother **Ino**; and sister **Eser**; nephews and nieces, brother and sister-in-laws; request fervent prayers and special petitions for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their Kalibo Aklan residence and will be transferred to Makato, Aklan on June 4, 2002.

Interment will take place on Wednesday, 5 June 2002 following the 2:00 PM Holy Mass to be officiated by His Eminence Archbishop Gabriel Reyes assisted by Rev. Fr. Calixto Legaspi and other priests at the Holy Child Parish, Makato, Aklan.

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Ma. Cecilia C. Buenaventura

peacefully rejoined our Creator on the 30th of May, 2002. She is lovingly remembered by her father, Serafin R. Buenaventura, her mother, Nellie Carmona-Buenaventura, Tita Eloy Buenaventura, her siblings, Jose, Gabriel, Ma. Socorro, Ma. Paz, Luis, Leah, Ma. Ana, Jorge and Ma. Guia, and nieces and nephews.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Paranaque City. Interment will be on the 2nd of June, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Paranaque City, after the 9 a.m. Mass.

*"Calm is thy slumber as an infant's sleep
But thou shalt wake no more to toil and weep
Thine is a perfect rest, secure and deep"*

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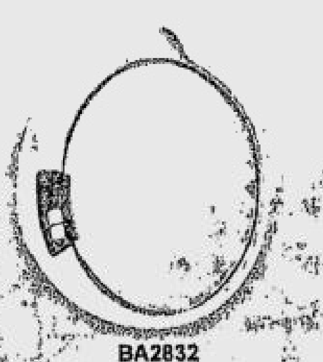

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Tempting offers from the GSIS housing loan program

Move over private lending institutions. Government employees never had it so good with enticing offers from the GSIS Housing Loan Program.

Lowest interest rates ever

The interest rates for *Bahay Ko* loan program are now reduced to 8% for socialized housing and 10 - 12% for non-socialized packages.

The rates are not subject to repricing unlike in private banks. It is a fixed rate which will prevail up to the last year of the loan term.

The reduced interest rates is also geared at making the *Bahay Ko* program more competitive with private lending agencies and spur the prompt payment of monthly amortization.

Reduced to only 8% is the interest rate on P180,000 and below housing loan package; 10% on P181,000-P300,000 loan; and 12% on P301,000 to P500,000 package. What would make members happier is the fact that previous loans granted under the Bahay Ko program are eligible for rate reduction, provided that their accounts have been current since the first due date.

Bahay Ko boasts of a collection efficiency of 99%. Needless to say, sans the technicalities, collection of payments is on stream. The reason behind the improved collection efficiency is the practice of subjecting every account to a positive billing scheme. The borrower is given a monthly statement of account regardless of whether or not the account is current.

Under the reduced interest scheme, delayed payment of amortization shall be charged higher penalties to instill the value of prompt payment of loans among the members.

Repair and renovation loan now available

If you've been wanting to renovate your house but lack the means to do so, you can now go to GSIS for financing.

This is because the purposes for the housing loan program have been expanded to include:

- house repair or improvement: completion of construction requirements, expansion/extension or any alteration in an existing residential unit intended to be a permanent integral part of the house to enhance its durability and material value
- Refinancing/transfer of an existing mortgage loan from private or government financial institution
- Purchase of a second hand housing with or without additional loan for repairs/improvement

On house repair or improvement, qualified members can borrow a maximum amount of P500,000 which shall be based on the lowest of the following: borrower's actual need; loan entitlement based on capacity to pay; loan entitlement based on collateral.

A very interesting feature of the program is that a member can use the loan to repair or improve a house and lot owned or registered in the name of his relative within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity, provided there is authority from the owner to mortgage the property.

The interest rates to be charged for the house repair/improvement loan shall be the highest rate offered under the *Bahay Ko* Program, regardless of the amount of the loan. However, if the purpose of the loan is to purchase a GSIS acquired property or a second hand housing unit coupled with house repair, the interest rate applicable to the total loan package under the Bahay Ko Program shall be imposed.

The term of the loan shall be the same as in the *Bahay Ko* program.

In refinancing or transfer of an existing Mortgage Loan from a private or government financial institution, the borrower should take note of the additional requirements:

- The loan to be refinanced should be current and updated at the time of the filing of the loan application
- The original amount of the loan should be reduced by at least 20%.

Relatedly, Mortgage Redemption Insurance (MRI) coverage is now optional regardless of the amount of loan and age of the borrower. Prior to the policy shift, the MRI was compulsory for borrowers 50 years old and below availing of the non-socialized housing package (P180,000).

Partial List of Housing Units for Resale at 40% Discount

SUBDIVISION	LOCATION	NO. OF UNITS
AGL Heights	Caalibangbangan,Cabanatuan City,Nueva Ecija	248
Amandaville	San Rafael,Bulacan	118
Florvel Homes	Oton, Iloilo City.Iloilo	113
Francisco Homes (Hacienda Caretas)	San Jose, Del Monte	121
Grandville	Mansilingan, Bacolod City	121
Lapidsville II	Tambubong,San Rafael, Bulacan	244
Lapidsville III	Sapang Maisac,Mexico, Pampanga	128
Maryhomes	Molino, Bacoor, Cavite	106
Nemarville Homes, Inc.	San Juan, San Miguel, Bulacan	17
Progress Homes, Phase II	Canaman, Camarines Sur	20
Rocka Village II Phase IV	Tabang, Plaridel, Bulacan	28
San Rafael Village III	Bo.Maguinao,San Rafael, Bulacan	137
Scienceville	Brgy.Magtanggol,Munoz, Nueva Ecija	160
Sto.Nino Villa De Lipa II	Bgy.Sabang, Lipa City, Batangas	118
Teresa Homes Phase IIA	Tibag, Tarlac,Tarlac	232
Univille	Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija	70
Villa Emilia	Brgy.Kalikid,Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija	64
Viva Villa	Brgy.Tangle,Mexico,Pampanga	438

8,000 housing units up for grabs at 40% discount

A total of 8,000 GSIS unoccupied housing units will be opened for resale at 40% discount to qualified members through the Bahay Ko program.

Under the program, the loanable amount is up to 100% of the appraised value of the property, depending on the limits on the borrower's paying capacity, or actual need whichever is lower. Maximum amount of loan is P500,000.

The units for sale are scattered all over the country and will be offered on an as is where is basis. Said units were previously acquired under the Mass Housing Program of the GSIS.

Since many of the units are not fit for immediate occupancy, an additional loan in the maximum amount of P200,000 to restore the property to livable condition may also be taken out. However, the total take-out loan should not be over the maximum amount of P500,000. The rehabilitation loan is deemed necessary since most of the units have no lavatories, water closets, electrical and plumbing fixtures.

However, the GSIS considered the Total Community Development Approach (TCDA) in reselling the units. Thus, there are available facilities and open spaces in the subdivisions where the units are located. Moreover, there are paved roads and entrance gates. The locations are likewise accessible through public transportation.

Initial survey reveals that 2,483 of these units are ready for disposition.

Housing loan restructuring still on

The GSIS extended its housing loan restructuring program which offers discounts on accrued interests. The discounts on interest granted is considered a breakthrough since no other financial institution has offered such a privilege in the past.

The new deadline for the submission of condonation/restructuring application is July 30, 2002.

The *Pabahay* Loan Restructuring Program (PLRP) has so far generated a cash inflow of P609 million to the GSIS and updated housing loan accounts amounting to P2.09 billion.

The PLRP has a unique feature of offering discounts on interest rates on top of condoning all surcharges and penalties due. Availing members are allowed to restructure their loans minus the 30% downpayment usually demanded for in other loan restructuring programs. Annual compounding of interest is effective on the date of restructuring. In effect, borrower's interest expenses for the account is minimized.

Discounts on Interest under the GSIS Pabahay Loan Restructuring Program

Types of settlements on GSIS PLRP	Discounts under the settlements (Interest Accrued)
Full Settlement of Loan	40% Discount
Settlement of 75% of Loan	30% Discount
Settlement of 50% of Loan	20% Discount
Settlement of 25% of Loan	10% Discount
No Down Payment	No Discount

GSIS pioneers online service in Philippine government

The Government Service Insurance System now rules the tech scene in the government as it launches *e-GSIS*, the first online service in the Philippine bureaucracy.

Through e-GSIS, which can be accessed by logging on to www.gsis.gov.ph, GSIS members can browse their individual GSIS records anytime and anywhere. They can also check out any information on their policies, loans or claims in the internet.

Thus, without leaving his office or the privacy of his home, a GSIS member can take a quick look at or download his statement of accounts and all his transactions on his policy, salary, emergency and housing loans. He can also view the tentative computation of his cash surrender value. All individual member information are fully secure that only members have access to their own records.

A user-friendly tutorial that provides a step by step guide is available in the site. The tutorial takes the surfing member on a tour of its features and shows him how to optimize its use.

For members who don't have e-mail accounts, e-GSIS can help in creating a Yahoo or Hotmail account.

E-GSIS has a "Contact Us" facility which will serve as a communication link to GSIS, ensuring members that their opinions and suggestions are heard and acted upon. It can also be a vehicle for correcting discrepancies in the members' records viewed through the site.

Very soon, e-GSIS will be fully e-enabled that it will allow GSIS members to send loan and other applications online. Much later, it will pave the way for a real paperless environment where making and receiving payments can be done online.

The inquiry system is just one of the initial phases of e-GSIS. The first phase, which was launched last year, was the revamp of the static website to make way for an interactive, user-friendly and easy-to – navigate site. The new website offers comprehensive information on the GSIS as well as its benefits and services. An interesting feature of the website is the online calculator which can compute retirement benefits, loan proceeds and monthly amortizations on GSIS' salary, pension and housing loan programs. In the case of retirement benefits under 8291, for instance, a member just has to key in his date of retirement, years of service and average monthly compensation to get the approximate value of his lump sum and monthly pension. To see how much salary loan he will receive and the monthly installment on the loan, he only needs to key in his basic salary and the loan term he prefers.

The site also offers important information on Survivorship Benefits – a must for all survivors and beneficiaries of government employees. A detailed presentation on employee compensation, disability and separation benefits can also be viewed in the site.

Other informative pages of the site include those on the *Bahay Ko* program where members will be able to have a closer view of 12 suggested house designs (members now have the option to adopt their own design) crafted by seasoned architects. The designs have their corresponding floor plans, computations for the loanable amount and the monthly amortization on the loan, including a list of requirements that a borrower must submit.

You can now text the GSIS

With the burgeoning texting generation and the emergence of mobile cellphone texting as the most practical and convenient way of communication in the country, the GSIS embraced infotexting technology. This is the first in all bureaucracies throughout Asia.

Thus, GSIS members can now send and receive text messages from the the GSIS on their loan queries. In the same manner, the GSIS will text its members regularly for advisories and updates.

Initially, queries on salary loan status, balance and loanable amount, and check number of a salary loan applied for will be answered by the GSIS Infotext. Very soon, however, the inquiry system will expand to cover all GSIS transactions.

To register, members just have to type GSIS Reg <Policy#> <Last Name> <First Name> and send to 248 for Smart users or 2390 for Globe users. The one-time registration will lead the member to all accessible transactions.

Any government employee with a cellphone can just text the GSIS.

With e-GSIS and info-text, the GSIS brings its services to the information age.

GSIS earns P25.8 B in 2001

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) posted a net income of P25.813 billion in 2001. This is 25.5% higher than its net revenue of P20.568 billion in the previous year. Gross income last year was P52.513 billion, 11.38% more than that of year 2000.

The hefty increase in the earnings of the GSIS came about despite a huge hike of P4.641 billion in its claims and benefits disbursements. In 2001, P22.281 billion was paid out for claims compared to P18.240 billion in 2000 or an increase of 25.44%.

GSIS President and General Manager Winston F. Garcia also revealed that salary loans granted to 763,395 members in 2001 was P39.345 billion which is, P7.539 billion over the P31,806 billion in 2000. On the other hand, policy loans granted in 2001 to 770,520 members amounted to P 7.294 billion or P1.283 billion bigger than the P6.011 billion in 2000.

Garcia attributed the financial gains of the System to, among others, an 11.38% improvement in investment income from P12.096 billion in 2000 to P13.473 billion in 2001. Another contributory factor was a huge savings incurred by the System in its administrative expense loading where 7.27% or P3.819 billion of the gross income was spent instead of the legally allowable 12% or P6.30 billion.

Today GSIS' assets, which could be the biggest among government corporations, stand at P205.451 billion, 13.47% more than its assets of P181.064 billion in 2000.

GSIS President/General Manager Winston P. Garcia

Because of the very viable financial condition of the GSIS, Garcia said that an P18 billion 4-year funding for the System's *Bahay Ko* (individual real estate loan) program was approved by the GSIS Board of Trustees. Last December, the System also declared a 90% increase on its dividends, or an increase of P650 million, and a high 25% hike on the pension of GSIS retirees who left government service on or before 1976. On May 31, its 65th anniversary, the GSIS will roll-out 7 new programs on housing, retirement and e-services for its 1.45 million members.

The key factor to the financial success of the GSIS is its investment strategy. It critically studied its investment patterns in the past years and found out that investment in salary loans has been the most lucrative venture aside from being the safest. Salary loans have a 95% collection efficiency and zero default rate because the loans are paid through salary deductions. Thus, the logical shift from high risk stocks to salary loans as the System's main investment Instrument.

As GSIS continued to grant salary loans in amounts equivalent to the members' eight months salary, it relaxed loan requirements and renewal periods to simplify the process and make it hassle-free for members.

For the housing loan program, GSIS shifted its resources from giving out developmental loans in favor of granting direct loans to members. It also rationalized its invesment portfolio based on conservatism and positioned its investments in higher yielding long-term government bonds. Moreover, it intensified premium collections, evaluated the assets portfolio and drew up plans for the early disposition of non-performing assets and resolution of problem accounts.

A real replacement income for pensioners in 2003

Retiree receiving pension through ATM.

A move which is sure to revolutionize the pension scheme in the public sector and allow would-be pensioners to live comfortably in their twilight years is the removal of the limit on the Average Monthly Compensation (AMC).

At present, the limit on the AMC is P16,000. Thus, even retirees who earned more than P16,000 while in active government service still get no more than P14,400 for their pension because of the AMC limit. This is the case even if the salary of the retiring employee is P20,000, P30,000, P50,000 or more.

With the removal of the AMC cap, a public servant who will retire starting January 1, 2003 will receive a pension equivalent to 90% of his AMC for the last three years regardless of the amount.

In comparing the old and new schemes, a retiring employee receiving an average salary of P50,000 for the last three years will receive a pension of P14,400 with the AMC limit. However, under the new AMC no-cap program, he will receive a pension of P45,000.

In removing the AMC cap, the GSIS will provide its members a real replacement income for the the salaries that they were getting while in active service. Moreover, since GSIS pension is increased annually with inflation rate as index, the pensioner will, in three years' time, already be receiving a pension which is more than his salary while in active service.

The removal of the AMC cap will take effect on January 1, 2003.

District Offices in Metro Manila

To make GSIS services more accessible to its members, the GSIS has established four district offices in Metro Manila. The district offices are located in Bulacan, Cavite, Caloocan, and Pasig. To open on June 1 is the Antipolo District Office.

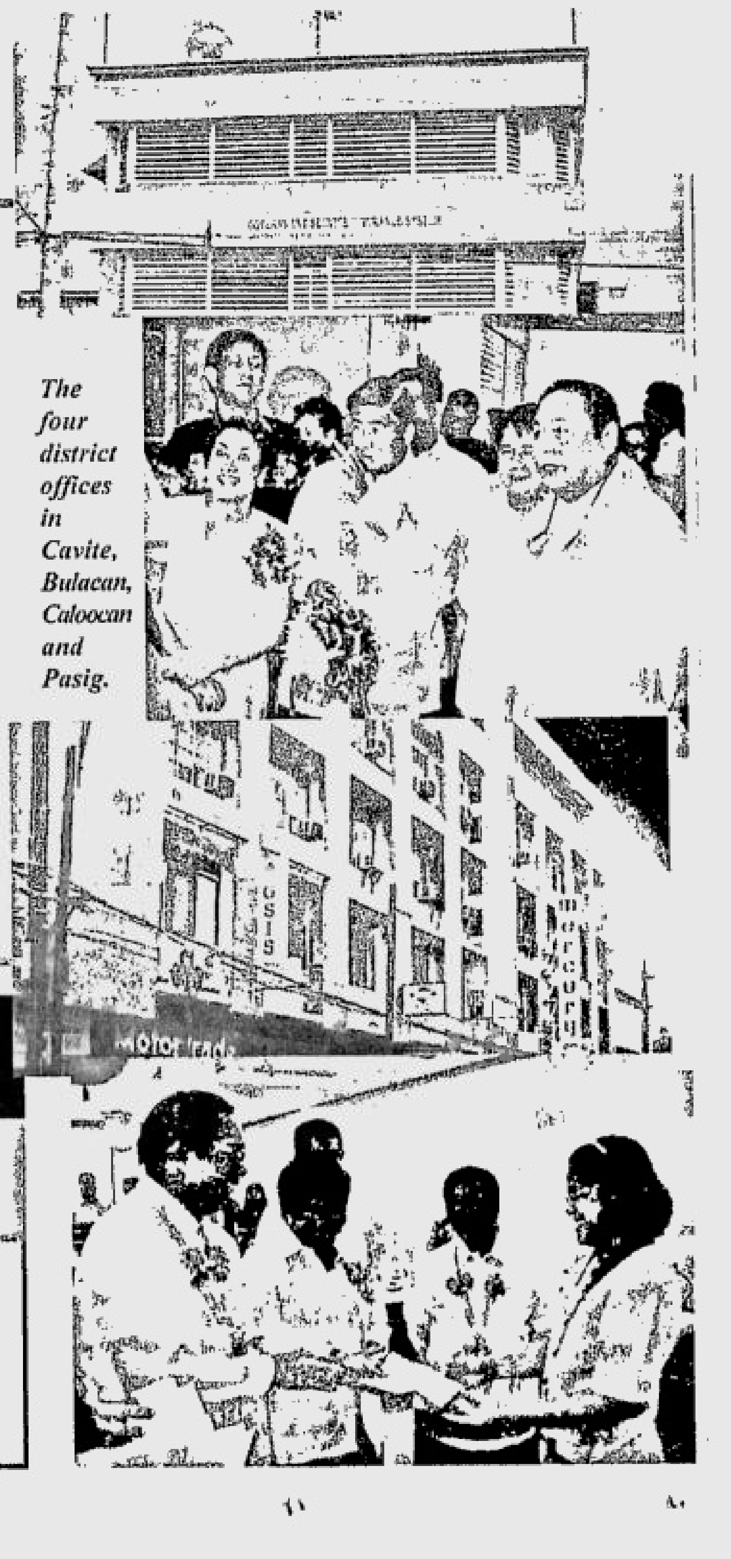
Eventually, district offices will replace the 78 GSIS service desks across the country.

Unlike the service desks which only operates twice a month, the GSIS district office are fully-complemented and open to the public daily. These district offices serve as the extension of the GSIS headquarters in issuing regular and optional policies, granting salary and policy loans and processing social insurance and optional life insurance claim applications.

GSIS Bulacan District Office holds office at the Provincial Capitol Compound in Malolos and serves 18,718 government workers in the province of Bulacan. Caloocan District Office serves a total of 16,800 members working in Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela. The GSIS office in Cavite covers 19,000 workers while Pasig has a 29,139 membership coverage.

In June, the GSIS Antipolo district office will be opened to serve some 12,383 GSIS members who work in the area. Two more district offices will be opened in Manila where the transactions of 93,032 GSIS members will be serviced.

The opening of district offices is in line with the GSIS goal to bring its services closer to the members.


The four district offices in Cavite, Bulacan, Caloocan and Pasig.

Increase in pension loan ceiling

Starting July 1, pensioners can take out a pension loan equivalent to the amount of their six months pension but not over P100,000.

The GSIS Pension Loan Program has been a big hit with old-age and disability pensioners who avail of the loan window as an immediate source of cash. The loan is processed in two hours and has a very reasonable interest of 8%. The program is intended to assist pensioners who need to immediately raise money for medical purposes or augment insufficient funds for small investments. The loan is evergreen, renewable after full payment.

Meanwhile, GSIS implemented the biggest pension increase in its history starting this year. The increase is as high as 25% depending on the pensioners' year of retirement.

Dividends, on the other hand, also increased substantially. Dividends distributed to members toward the end of the 2001 was a phenomenal 90%, or P650 million higher than the previous year. It was the biggest single increase in dividends that the GSIS has ever granted in 12 years. The dividend received by each member is equivalent to 3.33 months of his annual premium contributions.

The ceiling in the pension loan program has been increased to an amount equivalent to the pensioner's six months pension or P100,000, whichever is lower. The increase was prompted by the popularity of the loan window to pensioners who need to immediately raise money for medical purposes or augment insufficient funds for small investments.

INCREASE IN PENSION

Effective January 2002

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1976 and Earlier	25%	P3,150
1977 to 1983	20%	P2,520
1984 to 1989	15%	P1,890
1990 and Later	10%	P1,260

**does not apply to RA 7699 pro-rate pensions*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

November 19, 2001

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 59 s. 2001

SUBJECT: Rules And Regulations Governing The Establishment, Operation And Maintenance Of Clinical Laboratories In The Philippines

Section 1 **Title:**

This Administrative Order shall be known as the "Rules and Regulations Governing the Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of Clinical Laboratories in the Philippines."

Section 2 **Authority:**

These rules and regulations are issued to implement R.A. 4688: Clinical Laboratory Law consistent with E.O. 102 s. 1999: Redirecting the Functions and Operations of the Department of Health. The Department of Health (DOH), through the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services (BHFS) in the Health Regulation Cluster, shall exercise the regulatory functions under these rules and regulations.

Section 3 **Purpose:**

These rules and regulations are promulgated to protect and promote the health of the people by ensuring availability of clinical laboratories that are properly managed with adequate resources, with effective and efficient performance through compliance with quality standards.

Section 4 **Scope:**

4.1 These regulations shall apply to all entities performing the activities and functions of clinical laboratories which shall include the examination and analysis of any or all samples of human and other related tissues, fluids, secretions, excretions, radioactive, or other materials from the human body for the determination of the existence of pathogenic organisms, pathologic processes or conditions in the person from whom such samples are obtained.

4.2 These regulations do not include government laboratories doing laboratory examinations limited to acid fast bacilli microscopy, malaria screening and cervical cancer screening, provided their services are declared as extension of a licensed government clinical laboratory.

Section 5 **Classification of Laboratories:**

5.1 Classification by Function

- 5.1.1 Clinical Pathology - includes Hematology, Clinical Chemistry, Microbiology, Parasitology, Mycology, Clinical Microscopy, Immunology and Serology, Immunohematology, Blood Banking, Laboratory Endocrinology, Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and other similar disciplines.
- 5.1.2 Anatomic Pathology – includes Surgical Pathology, Immunohispathology, Cytology, Autopsy and Forensic Pathology.

5.2 Classification by Institutional Character

- 5.2.1 Hospital–based laboratory - a laboratory that operates within a hospital.
- 5.2.2 Non-hospital-based laboratory -- a laboratory that operates on its own.

5.3 Classification by Service Capability

- 5.3.1 Primary – provides the minimum service capabilities such as:
  - 5.3.1.1 Routine Hematology (Complete Blood Count or CBC) – includes Hemoglobin Mass Concentration, Erythrocyte Volume Fraction (Hematocrit), Leucocytes Number Concentration (White Blood Cell or WBC Count) and Leucocytes Type Number Fraction (Differential Count), Qualitative Platelet Determination.
  - 5.3.1.2 Routine Urinalysis
  - 5.3.1.3 Routine Fecalysis
  - 5.3.1.4 Blood Typing –hospital based
  - 5.3.1.5 Quantitative platelet determination –hospital based
- 5.3.2 Secondary -- provides the minimum service capabilities of a primary category and the following:
  - 5.3.2.1 Routine Clinical Chemistry - includes Blood Glucose Substance Concentration, Blood Urea Nitrogen Concentration, Blood Uric Acid Substance Concentration, Blood Creatinine Concentration, Blood Total Cholesterol Concentration.
  - 5.3.2.2 Cross matching - hospital based.
- 5.3.3 Tertiary – provides the secondary service capabilities and the following:
  - 5.3.3.1 Special Chemistry
  - 5.3.3.2 Special Hematology
  - 5.3.3.3 Immunology/Serology
  - 5.3.3.4 Microbiology

Section 6 **Policies:**

6.1 An approved permit to construct and design lay-out of a clinical laboratory shall be secured from the BHFS prior to submission of an application for a Petition to Operate.

6.2 No clinical laboratory shall be constructed unless plans have been approved and construction permit issued by the BHFS.

6.3 A clinical laboratory shall operate with a valid license issued by BHFS/CHD, based on compliance with the minimum licensing requirements (Annex A).

6.4 The clinical laboratory shall be organized and managed to provide effective and efficient laboratory services.

6.5 The clinical laboratory shall provide adequate and appropriate safety practices for its personnel and clientele.

Section 7 **Requirements and Procedures for Application of Permit to Construct and License to Operate:**

7.1 **Application for Permit to Construct:** The following are the documents required:

- 7.1.1 Letter of Application to the Director of BHFS
- 7.1.2 Four (4) sets of Site Development Plans and Floor Plans approved by an architect and/or engineer.
- 7.1.3 DTI/SEC Registration (for private clinical laboratory)

7.2 **Application for new license:** A duly notarized application form "Petition to Establish, Operate and Maintain a Clinical Laboratory" (Annex B), shall be filed by the owner or his duly authorized representative at the BHFS.

7.3 **Application for renewal of license:** A duly notarized application form "Application for Renewal of License to Establish, Operate and Maintain A Clinical Laboratory" (Annex C), shall be filed by the owner or his duly authorized representative at the respective CHD.

7.3.1 Renewal of License:

Application for renewal of license shall be filed within 90 days before the expiry date of the license described as follows:

Region	Schedule of application for renewal of license
NCR	January to March
1, 2, 3 & CAR	February to April
4, 5 & 6	March to May
7, 8 & 9	April to June
10, 11, 12, CARAGA & ARMM	May to July

7.4 **Permit and License Fees:**

- 7.4.1 A non-refundable license fee shall be charged for application for permit to construct, and for license to operate a government and private clinical laboratory.
- 7.4.2 A non-refundable fee shall be charged for application for renewal of license to operate.
- 7.4.3 All fees shall be paid to the cashier of the BHFS/CHD.
- 7.4.4 All fees shall follow the current prescribed schedules of fees of the DOH.

7.5 **Penalties:**

- 7.5.1 A penalty of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) for late renewal shall be charged in addition to the renewal fee for all categories if the application is filed during the next two (2) months after expiry date.
- 7.5.2 An application received more than two (2) months after expiry date shall be fined one hundred pesos (P100.00) for each month thereafter in addition to the P1,000.00 penalty.

7.6 **Inspection:**

- 7.6.1 Each licensee shall make available to the Director of the BHFS/CHD or his duly authorized representative(s) at any reasonable time, the premises and facilities where the laboratory examinations are being performed for inspection.
- 7.6.2 Each licensee shall make available to the Director of the BHFS/CHD or his duly authorized representative(s) all pertinent records.
- 7.6.3 Clinical laboratories shall be inspected every two (2) years or as necessary.

7.7 **Monitoring:**

- 7.7.1 All clinical laboratories shall be monitored regularly and records shall be made available to determine.compliance with these rules and regulations.
- 7.7.2 The Director of the BHFS/CHD or his authorized representative(s) shall be allowed to monitor the clinical laboratory at any given time.
- 7.7.3 All clinical laboratories shall make available to the Director of the BHFS or his duly authorized representative(s) records for monitoring.

7.8 **Issuance of License:**

The license shall be issued by the Director of the CHD or his authorized representative, if the application is found to be meritorious.

7.9 **Terms and Conditions of License:**

- 7.9.1 The license is granted upon compliance with the licensing requirements.
- 7.9.2 The license is non transferable.
- 7.9.3 The owner or authorized representative of any clinical laboratory desiring to transfer a licensed clinical laboratory to another location shall inform the CHD in writing at least 15 days before actual transfer.
- 7.9.4 The laboratory in its new location shall be subject to re-inspection and shall comply with the licensing requirements.
- 7.9.5 An extension laboratory shall have a separate license.
- 7.9.6 Any change affecting the substantial conditions of the license to operate a laboratory shall be reported within 15 days in writing by the person(s) concerned, to the BHFS/CHD for notation and approval. Failure to do so will cause the revocation of the license of the clinical laboratory.
- 7.9.7 The clinical laboratory license must be placed in a conspicuous location/area within the laboratory.

Section 8 **Violations:**

8.1 The license to operate a clinical laboratory shall be suspended or revoked by the Secretary of Health upon violation of R.A. 4688 or the Rules and Regulations issued in pursuance thereto.

8.2 The following acts committed by the Owner, President, Managers, Board of Trustees/Director, Pathologist or its personnel are considered violations.

- 8.2.1 Operation of a clinical laboratory without a certified pathologist or without a registered medical technologist.
- 8.2.2 Change of ownership, location, head of laboratory or personnel without informing the BHFS and/or the CHD.
- 8.2.3 Refusal to allow inspection of the clinical laboratory by the person(s) authorized by the BHFS during reasonable hours.
- 8.2.4 Gross negligence.
- 8.2.5 Any act or omission detrimental to the public.

8.3 The Provincial, City and Municipal Health Officers are authorized to report to the CHD and BHFS the existence of unlicensed clinical laboratories or any private party performing laboratory examinations without proper license and/or violations to these rules & regulations.

Section 9 **Investigation of Charges or Complaints:**

The BHFS/CHD or his duly authorized representative(s) shall investigate the complaint and verify if the laboratory concerned or any of its personnel is guilty of the charges.

9.1 If upon investigation, any person is found violating the provisions of R.A. 4688, or any of these rules and regulations, the BHFS/CHD or his duly authorized representative(s) shall suspend, cancel or revoke for a determined period of time the license, as well as the authority of the offending person(s), without prejudice to taking the case to judicial authority for criminal action.

9.2 Any person who operates a clinical laboratory without the proper license from the Department of Health shall upon conviction be subject to imprisonment for not less than 1 month but not more than 1 year or a fine of not less than P1,000.00 and not more than P5,000.00 or both at the discretion of the court. Provided, however, that if the offender is a firm or corporation, the Managing Head and/or owner/s thereof shall be liable to the penalty imposed herein.

9.3 Any Clinical Laboratory operating without a valid license or whose license has been revoked/cancelled shall be summarily closed upon order issued by the BHFS/CHD or his duly authorized representative. The BHFS/CHD may seek the assistance of the law enforcement agency to enforce the closure of any clinical laboratory.

9.4 The closure order issued by the DOH shall not be rendered ineffective by any restraining order and injunction order issued by any court, tribunal or agency or instrumentalities.

Section 10 **Modification and Revocation of License:**

10.1 A license may be revoked, suspended or modified in full or in part for any material false statement by the applicant, or as shown by the record of inspection or for a violation of, or failure to comply any of the terms and conditions and provisions of these rules and regulations.

10.2 No license shall be modified, suspended or revoked unless prior notice has been made and the corresponding investigation conducted except in cases of willful, or repeated violations hereof, or where public health interest or safety requires otherwise.

Section 11 **Repealing Clause:**

These rules and regulations shall supersede all other previous official issuances hereof.

Section 12 **Publication of List of Licensed Clinical Laboratories:**

A list of licensed clinical laboratories shall be published annually in a newspaper of general circulation.

Section 13 **Effectivity:**

These rules and regulations shall take effect 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette, or in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., MSc**
Secretary of Health

Annex A

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The Clinical Laboratory shall be organized to provide effective and efficient laboratory services.

I. STAFFING

1. The Clinical Laboratory shall be managed by a licensed physician certified by the Philippine Board of Pathology.

   In areas where pathologists are not available, a physician with a three (3) months training on clinical laboratory medicine, quality control and laboratory management, may manage a primary/secondary category clinical laboratories. The BHFS shall certify such training.
2. The clinical laboratory shall,employ qualified and adequately trained personnel. Work assignment shall be consistent with the qualification of the concerned personnel.
   - 2.1 A clinical laboratory shall have sufficient number of registered medical technologists proportional to the workload and shall be available at all times during hours of laboratory operation. For hospital-based clinical laboratory, there shall be at least one registered medical technologist per shift to cover the laboratory operation.
3. There shall be staff development and appropriate continuing education program available at all levels of organization to upgrade the knowledge, attitudes and skills of staff.

II. PHYSICAL FACILITIES

1. The clinical laboratory shall be well-ventilated, adequately lighted, clean and safe.
2. The working space shall be sufficient to accommodate its activities and allow for smooth and coordinated work flow.
3. There shall be an adequate water supply.
4. The working space for all categories of clinical laboratories (both hospital and non-hospital-based) shall have at least the following measurements:

Category	Space in sq. m.
Primary	10
Secondary	20
Tertiary (to include a separate, enclosed and adequately ventilated room for Microbiology)	60

III. EQUIPMENT/INSTRUMENTS:

1. There shall be provisions for sufficient number and types of appropriate equipment/instruments in order to undertake all the activities and laboratory examinations. These equipment shall comply with safety requirements.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR EQUIPMENT/INSTRUMENTS:

PRIMARY CATEGORY	SECONDARY CATEGORY	TERTIARY CATEGORY
Clinical centrifuge	**All those in Primary Category plus the** following:	**All those in Secondary Category plus the** following:
Hemacytometer	Refrigerator	Incubator
Microhematocrit centrifuge	Photometer or its equivalent	Balance, trip/analytical
Microscope w/ oil immersion objective	Water bath or its equivalent	Rotator
Hemoglobinometer or its equivalent	Timer or its equivalent	Serofuge or its equivalent
Differential blood cell counter or its equivalent		Autoclave
		Drying oven
		Biosafety cabinet or its equivalent

2. For other laboratory examinations being performed, the appropriate equipment necessary for performing such procedures shall be made available.

I V. GLASSWARES/REAGENTS/SUPPLIES

All categories of clinical laboratories shall provide adequate and appropriate glass wares, reagents and supplies necessary to undertake the required services.

V. WASTE MANAGEMENT

There shall be provisions for adequate and efficient disposal of waste following guidelines of the Department of Health and the local government. (*copies of which are available at respective CHDs and DOH-BHFS and local government offices*)

VI. QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM

All clinical laboratories shall have a functional Quality Assurance Program.

1 Internal Quality Control Program
- 1.1 There shall be a documented, continuous competency assessment program for all laboratory personnel.
- 1.2 The program shall provide appropriate and standard laboratory methods, reagents & supplies and equipment.
- 1.3 There shall be a program for the proper maintenance and monitoring of all equipment.
- 1.4 The program shall provide for the use of quality control reference materials.

2. External Quality Control Program
- 2.1 All clinical laboratories shall participate in an External Quality Assurance Program given by designated National Reference Laboratories and/or other recognized reference laboratories.
- 2.2 A satisfactory performance rating given by a National Reference Laboratory shall be one of the criteria for the renewal of license.
- 2.3 Any refusal to participate in an External Quality Assurance Program given by the designated National Reference Laboratories shall be one of the basis for suspension/revocation of the license of the laboratory.

VII. REPORTING:

Laboratory requests shall be construed as consultation between the requesting physician and the pathologist of the laboratory and as such laboratory results shall be released accordingly.

1. All laboratory reports on various examinations of specimens shall bear the name of the registered medical technologist and the pathologist and duly signed by both.
2. No person in the clinical laboratory shall issue a report, orally or in writing, whole or portions, thereof without a directive from the pathologist or his authorized associate to the requesting physician or his authorized representative except in emergency cases when the results may be released as authorized by the pathologist.

VIII. RECORDING

There shall be a system of accurate recording to ensure quality results.

1. There shall be an adequate and effective system of recording requests and reports of all specimens submitted and examined.
2. There shall be provisions for filing, storage and accession of all reports.
3. All laboratory records shall be kept on file for at least one (1) year.
   - 3.1 Records of anatomic and forensic pathology shall be kept permanently in the laboratory.

IX. LABORATORY FEES:

The laboratory and professional fees to be charged for a laboratory examination shall be at the prevailing rates.

1. The rates shall be within the range of the usual fees prevailing at the time and the particular place, taking into consideration the cost of testing and quality control of various laboratory procedures.
2. Professional services rendered to the patient in the performance of special procedures or examinations shall be charged separately and not included in the laboratory fee/s.

Annex B

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES
Manila

SIGLA

(IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
______________________________)
To Establish, Operate and Maintain a
CLINICAL LABORATORY

PETITION

Now comes the undersigned petitioner and to the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services, respectfully represents:

1. That the petitioner is of legal age, married/single, ______________ citizen, and residing at ______________________________
2. That he/she desires to open a CLINICAL LABORATORY at __________ ______________ Street, Municipality of ______________ ______________Province of ______________
3. That the CLINICAL LABORATORY shall be known as ______________
4. That the CLINICAL LABORATORY shall be managed by Dr. __________ ______________________ citizen, residing at ______________________
5. That the owner of the CLINICAL LABORATORY is ______________ ______________ citizen, residing at ______________________

Wherefore, your petitioner respectfully prays that he be given license to operate said CLINICAL LABORATORY after inspection thereof. ______________ ______________, 20_____.

Respectfully submitted,

____
(Print Name and Signature)
Petitioner

Tax Account No.______________

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this ______ day of __________
20 ______ at ______________________
______________. Affiant exhibited to me his Residence Certificate
No. __________ issued at ______________
on ______________________, 20___.
Doc. No. ______________
Page No. ______________
Notarial Reg. No. ______________
Series of ______________
Documentary Stamps P3.00

____
Notary Public
My Commission expires on Dec. 31, 20_

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES
Manila

SIGLA

APPLICATION AS HEAD OF LABORATORY

Date:______________________

The Director
Bureau of Health Facilities and Services
Manila
Sir:

In compliance with the requirements of R.A. 4688 (Clinical Laboratory Law), I have the honor to apply as Head of:

____
(Name of Laboratory)

____
(Street, Municipality, Province)

My bio-data are as follows:

PERSONAL

Name ______________________ Age ______________ Sex __________

Maiden Name (if married female) ______________________________

Citizenship ______________ Civil Status ______________________

Address ______________________________ Tel. No. ______________

EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING:

School/Institution	Inclusive Dates	Year	Degree
Medical Course:			
Post Graduate Course:			

(a separate sheet may be used)

PRC Board Registry:

Name of Board	Date of Exam.	Rating	Registry No.

Pathology Specialty Board:

Name of Board	Date Certified	Training Institution Accredited for (AP, CP, AP-CP)
ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY		
CLINICAL PATHOLOGY		
ANATOMIC/CLINICAL PATHO.		

Very truly yours,

____

(Signature Over Printed Name)

FORM NO. 3

INFORMATION SHEET

Note: Must be accomplished by the Head/Pathologist (FILL IN ALL BLANKS)

I. CLINICAL LABORATORY

1. Name of Clinical Laboratory ______________________________
2. Previous Permit No. __________ Category/Classification ______________
3. Address: ______________________________
4. Tel No.: ______________________________
   Landline: __________ Mobile phone: __________

II. HEAD

1. Name ______________________________
2. Tel.No:Landline/Mobile Phone No.: ______________________
3. Address: ______________________________
4. Medical Board Registry No. __________ issued on ______________
   Name, address & working schedule in clinical laboratories supervised or associated with:

Name and Address of Clinical Laboratory	Working Time	Schedule

5. Date of Appointment ______________________
6. Status of membership in the Philippine Society of Pathologists:
   - 6.1 Name of Specialty Board [ ] AP, [ ] CP, [ ] AP-CP, [ ] Others (please specify) ______________________
     Date of Certification ______________________
   - 6.2 Name of Residency Training Institution ______________________
     Inclusive Dates ______________ Accredited for [ ] AP, [ ] CP, [ ] AP-CP, [ ] Others (Specify)

III. MANPOWER STAFFING:

Please list all personnel including Associates & Assistant Pathologists and indicate educational attainment and status of membership in appropriate Specialty Societies: (Use separate sheet if necessary)

	Name	Position Title	Edu. Attainment/ Reg. No.
A. Pathologist/Hematologist (Associate/Assistant)			
B. Medical Technologist			
C. Others (Ph.D., Chemist, etc.)			

IV. SERVICE CAPABILITIES

Please check services offered. Use attached Form #3-a

V. EQUIPMENT CAPABILITIES

Please indicate number, working/non-working and those purchased 10 years ago. Use attached Form #3-b

I hereby certify that the foregoing statements are true. I assume full responsibility that the operation of the Clinical Laboratory is in accordance with the Rules and Regulations pursuant to R.A. 4688 (Clinical Laboratory Law).

____

Name in Print & Signature

____

Designation

____

PTR

____

T.I.N.

Date: ______________________

Form No. 3-a

1. SERVICE CAPABILITIES

ANNUAL REPORT
CY 20______

Name of Clinical Laboratory ______________________________

Address ______________________________

INSTRUCTION:

PLEASE FILL UP THE TABULATED BLANKS USING LEGENDS AS GUIDE.

LEGEND:

E – Examination
S - Specimen
S.O. – Send-outs
N.D. – Not Done
N.R. – No Reagent
E.O.O. – Equipment out of order

	TOTAL NO. SPECIMENS RECEIVED	SPECIMENS EXAMINED (E)	SEND-OUT (S.O) (pls. check)	REASON FOR S.O. (Please check)		
				N.D.	N.R.	E.O.O.
A. CLINICAL PATHOLOGY						
1. CLINICAL MICROSCOPY						
1.1 Routine Urinalysis						
1.2 Special Urinalysis						
■ Sugar						
■ Albumin						
■ Acetone						
■ Occult Blood						
■ Urobilinogen						
■ Bile						
■ Calcium						
■ HCG (qualitative)						
■ HCG (quantitative)						
■ Bence Jones Protein						
■ Others (please specify)						
1.3 Routine Fecalysis						
1.4 Special Fecalysis						
■ Amoeba						
■ Concentration Method						
■ Occult Blood						
■ Urobilinogen						
■ Bile						
1.5 Pregnancy Test						
2. HEMATOLOGY						
2.1 Routine Hematology						
■ Hemoglobin						
■ Hematocrit						
■ WBC						
■ Differential						
■ ESR						
■ Smear for Blood Parasite						
■ CT, BT						
■ CSF Cell Count						
■ Body Fluid Cell Count						
■ Seminal Fluid Exam.						
■ Others (please specify)						
2.2 Special Hematology						
■ Platelet Count						
■ Reticulocyte Count						
■ Prothrombine Time						
■ L.E. Cell Preparation						
■ Osmotic Fragility Test						
■ Bone Marrow Exam.						
■ Others (please specify)						
3. CLINICAL CHEMISTRY						
3.1 Routine Chemistry						
■ Blood Sugar						
■ BUN						
■ Uric Acid						
■ Cholesterol						
■ Createnine						
■ CSF(Total Protein, Sugar, Chloride)						
3.2 Special Chemistry						
■ SGOT						
■ SGPT						
■ Alkaline Phosphatase						
■ Triglycerides						
■ Amylase						
■ Lipase						
■ LDH						
■ CPK						
■ Sodium						
■ Potassium						
■ Chloride						
■ Calcium						
4. BLOOD GASES						
■ pH						
■ HCO_3						
■ pCO_2						
■ pO_2						
5. BLOOD BANKING						
■ Blood Typing						
■ Cross Matching						
6. IMMUNOLOGY/SEROLOGY						
■ STS (VDRL, RPR, etc.)						
■ CRP						
■ ASO Titer						
■ Rheumatoid Factor/ANA						
■ Widal Test						
■ Alphafetoprotein						
■ CEA						
■ HbsAg						
■ HIV Testing						
■ Others (please specify)						
7. MICROBIOLOGY						
7.1 Gram Staining						
7.2 Acid Fast Staining						
7.3 KOH mount for fungi						
7.4 Culture (Isolation and Identification)						
7.5 Culture & Sensitivity						
7.6 Others (please specify)						
8. DRUG ASSAY (please specify)						
9. ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY						
1. Surgical						
2. Frozen Section						
3. Cytology						
4. Autopsy						

Form No. 3-b

V. EQUIPMENT CAPABILITIES

(Please provide additional sheet if necessary)

Name of Clinical Laboratory ______________________________

Address ______________________________

QTY.	EQUIPMENT	SPECIFICATION		Date of Purchase/ Donation	UNIT COST	MANNER OF ACQUISITION		STATUS	
		Brand Name & Model	Serial No.			Donation	Purchase	Functional	Non-Functional

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES
Manila

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION/OPERATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES

1. For private laboratories: Certificate of registration of business name from the Department of Trade & Industry and certificate from the Security and Exchange Commission (if corporation).
2. Certificate/s from the Philippine Board of Pathology.
3. PRC board certificate of Medical Technologist/s.
4. A notarized statement that the applicant has complied with all business requirements under existing laws or ordinances in the locality where the laboratory is located.
5. Location Map
6. Floor Diagram

Annex C

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES
Manila

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF LICENSE
To Establish, Operate and Maintain a Clinical Laboratory

The Director
Center for Health Development
Manila

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to apply for renewal of license to operate the:

Name of Clinical Laboratory ______________________________

Category/Classification ______________________ Date First Operated ______________

Permit No. ______________ Issued on ______________ Year 20 ______________

Name of Owner ______________________________ Tel No. ______________

Address ______________________________

Name of Head ______________________________ Tel. No. ______________

Address ______________________________

The personnel are: (May use separate sheet).

	Name	Position Title	Edu.Attainment/Reg. No.
A. Pathologist/Hematologist (Associate/Assistant)			
B. Medical Technologist			
C. Others (Chemist, etc.)			

I bind myself to see that the operation of the Clinical Laboratory is in accordance with the Rules and Regulations issued to implement R.A. 4688. (Clinical Laboratory Law). Please acknowledge receipt of renewal fee (P ______________).

Very Truly yours,

____

Printed Name and Signature

____

Designation

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this ______________ day of ______________ 20______ at ______________________. Affiant exhibited to me his Residence Tax Certificate No. ______________ issued at ______________________ on ______________ 20______

Doc. No. ______________
Page No. ______________
Notarial Reg. No. ______________
Series of ______________
Documentary Stamps P3.00

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Notary Public

My Commission expires on Dec. 31, 20______.

Daikin, Trane announce alliance

DAIKIN Industries Ltd. And American Standard Companies Inc. recently announced that Daikin's Air Conditioning Division and Trane, American Standard's Air Conditioning Division, have agreed to form a comprehensive global strategic alliance to source and sell each other's products.

Building up on each other's product, brand, geographic and distribution strengths, the alliance will enable Daikin and Trane to increase their market opportunities in eight major regions around the world, serving their respective customers with broader product offerings while minimizing costs and risk. Each company will focus on its own areas of expertise and capitalize on the other's complementary capabilities. Through the alliance, the companies will be able to provide their customers a complete line of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) products, services and solutions for major industrial, commercial and residential markets.

The companies believe that this alliance of two independent industry leaders of equal size will promote improved customer solutions, increased market development and enhanced global competition.

Daikin, with annual sales of 531.9 billion yen ($4.4 billion), is a Japanese air conditioning leader and has strong global market positions in ductless residential and commercial air conditioners as well as small chillers. Trane, with annual sales of about $4.7 billion is a global leader in commercial air conditioning systems and is a leader in ducted commercial and residential air conditioning in the United States.

As part of the alliance, Daikin will contribute its development and manufacturing expertise in ductless residential and commercial products as well as dealer and installer distribution channels outside its home market. Outside the United States, Trane will contribute its development and manufacturing expertise in applied and ducted unitary systems, in addition to its experience selling through commercial channels, including consulting engineers, contractors and building owners.

The companies will implement this long-term strategic alliance when they develop a series of agreements for Japan, Europe, North and South America, Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, India and China. Next year, Daikin and Trane plan to start a cross-sourcing arrangement in Europe, which will be followed by other country-specific agreements over time. In Japan, the companies also plan to start a cooperative relationship in the applied market. Daikin will supply Trane's chiller products and solutions expertise to its strong existing customer base as a way to expand its applied businesses.

'Flores de Mayo' kicks off Manila Film Festival

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza announced that the city government would stage a Flores de Mayo at 6 tonight in Malate, to be participated in by stars of this year's Manila Film Festival entries.

The parade will start in front of the Pan Pacific Hotel in Adriatico St., Malate, Manila, will go through Adriatico St., right at San Andres St., left at M.H. Del Pilar, right at Padre Faura St. and back at Adriatico St.

Movie celebrities who will participate in the parade include Ara Mina and Rudy Fernandez of the film "Diskarte" by Maverick Films; Ruffa Mae Quinto, Marvin Agustin, Melanie Marquez and Troy Montero of "Super B Saves the Day" by Viva Films; Sharon Cuneta, Judy Ann Santos, Christopher de leon and Dingdong Dantes of "Magkapatid" by Viva Films; Elizabeth Oropesa, Jenine Desiderio, Richard Quan and Allen Dizon of "Mama San" by FLT Films; Joyce Jimenez, Piolo Pascual, Gloria Romero and Luis Gonzales of "I Think I'm in Love" by Regal Films; and Joel Torre, Jeffrey Quizon, Precious Valencia and Maricar de Mesa of "Utang ni Tatang" by World Arts Cinema.

"We are inviting everyone to watch this event," said Atienza. "This will be a star-studded affair organized by the city government in cooperation with the local movie industry for the enjoyment of the general public.

Atienza will lead the parade with his wife, Evelina "Beng" Atienza.

The "Flores de Mayo" parade with the stars, aside from the community day with the stars in all the city's six districts, is meant to drumbeat this year's edition of the Manila Film Festival.

The popular film festival was revived by Atienza this year after a two-year hiatus, as part of efforts to support the local film industry and harness it in promoting positive values, especially among the youth.

"We believe that the local film industry has to be supported by the government, especially during lean times. We are also convinced that it can be a potent force for promoting the country and instilling socially redeeming values in our people," said Atienza.

Hunk of the Year search at E Place

DO you have what it takes to represent the Philippines in the Mr. International search in the USA next year?

If you're a real Pinoy hunk—single, with pleasing personality, articulate, of good moral character, 17-25 years old, at least 5'9"—then you might be the first Hunk of the Year ever.

Gram Productions announces the first total male personality search, the Hunk of the Year 2003.

At stake for the winner is $1,000 in cash and the chance to represent the country in the Mr. International in Los Angeles, California, USA. Top winner also invades Hollywood and earns dollars in an all-male fashion show in LA.

Hunk of the Year first runner-up wins P20,000 in cash and gift certificates, while the second runner-up takes home P10,000 cash and gift certificates.

Those interested to try the search can join the monthly Calendar Hunk search which starts this June at E Place in Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City. Two monthly winners (P5,000 each) will be chosen, who will all compete in the Hunk of the Year grand finals in December.

They can go directly to E Place or send their resumé with full body picture to RRR Intl Mailing Exchange Box No. 1, 111 Tomas Morato Ave., Brgy. Obrero, QC 1103. Or call, text Gram Productions at 0917-7527346.

Send nominations to RRR Intl Mailing Exchange Box No. 1, 111 Tomas Morato Ave., Brgy Obrero, QC 1103 or e-mail at pilipig@yahoo.com or text 0918-9016110.

Participants in the survey should put their names, sex, age, profession, contact number and address.

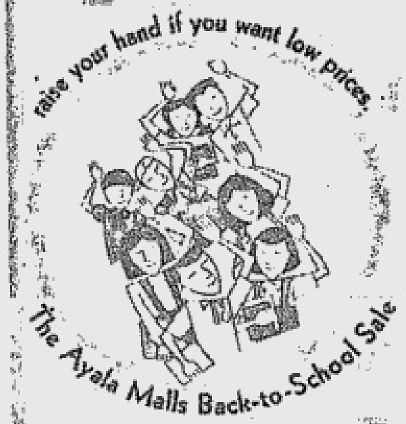
Lucky voters, texters, nominators will receive cash prizes and gift certificates.

For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 RESIDENT EVIL	1 PANIC ROOM	1 STARWARS: EPISODE 2	1 STARWARS: EPISODE 2 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	PANIC ROOM 11:55, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35, 12:00	2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT	3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00	3 PANIC ROOM	3 IN THE BEDROOM 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20, 12:00	3 PANIC ROOM
4 JIHAD WARRIOR	4 JIHAD WARRIOR	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM May 31 & June 1, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 12:00	4 DEATH SMOOCHY
	5 IN THE BEDROOM		RESIDENT EVIL 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 12:00	5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
	6 RESIDENT EVIL			
	7 SPIDER-MAN			

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com

The Ayala Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU


raise your hand if you want low prices
The Ayala Malls Back-to-School Sale

Makati
May 27 to 30
Back-to-School Fair
at the Glorietta Activity Center

Alabang
May 31, June 1 & 2 and June 14, 15 & 16
10-to-10 Town Sale

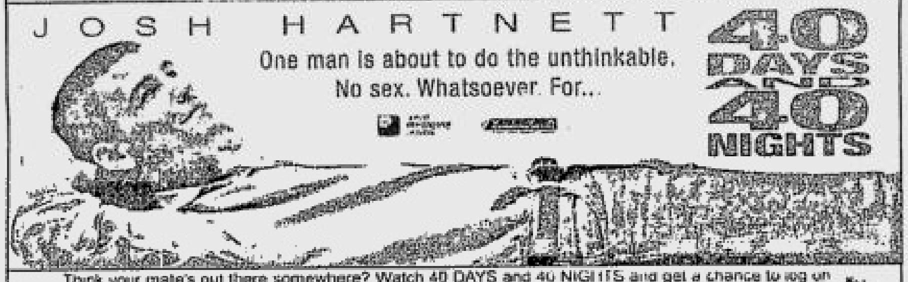
Back-to-School Fair
June 7, 8 & 9 at the Activity Center
June 14, 15 & 16 at the Cinema Lobby

Cebu
May 31, June 1 & 2
Mallwide Sale

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-0172 & DTI-Cebu No. 203 Series of 2002

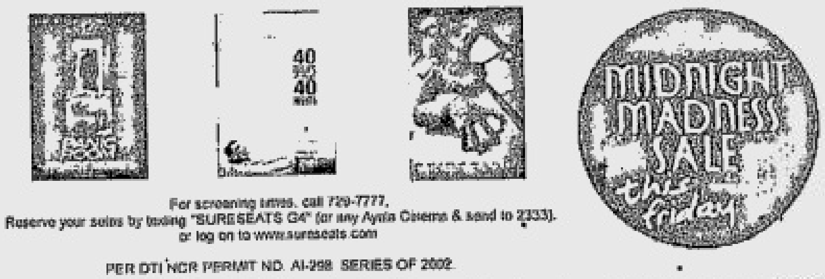
Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more.

the all-digital-sound
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT 1 & 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED
JOSH HARTNETT
One man is about to do the unthinkable.
No sex. Whatsoever. For...
40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS



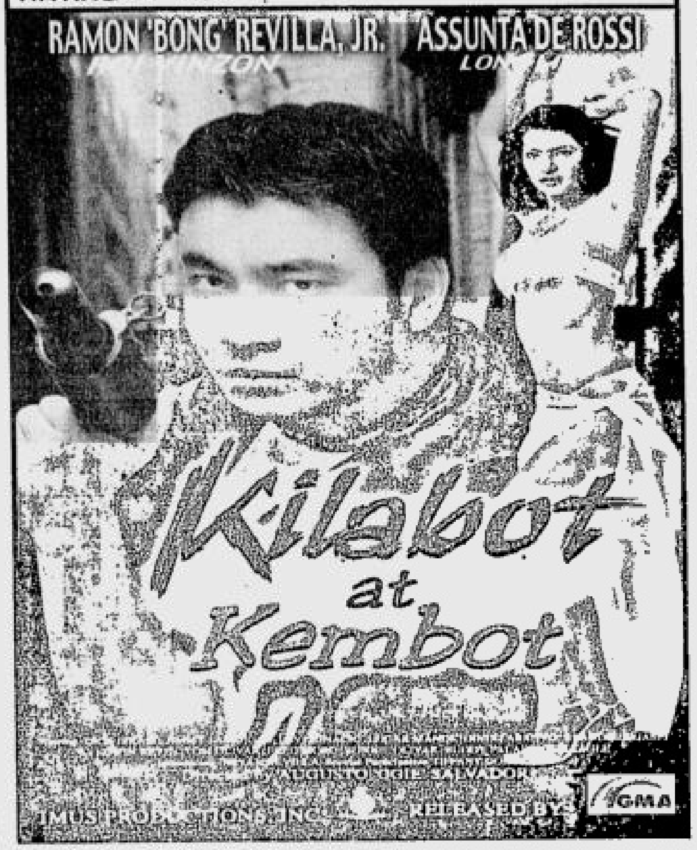
Think your mate's out there somewhere? Watch 40 DAYS and 40 NIGHTS and get a chance to log on to www.match.ph Match.ph—where people meet.
Where people meet.
For screening times, call 729-7777
Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) & send to 2333
Or log on to www.sureseats.com
OUTBACK

the all-digital-sound
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 4
Get a FREE Glorietta 4 Cinema ticket
for every purchase of Four (4) tickets at the GLorietta 4 Cinemas
(except Guaranteed Seats Cinema).


40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS
MIDNIGHT MADNESS SALE this friday

For screening times, call 729-7777,
Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema & send to 2333).
or log on to www.sureseats.com
PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. AI-298 SERIES OF 2002
VALID ON MAY 31 & JUNE 1 MIDNIGHT SCREENING ONLY!

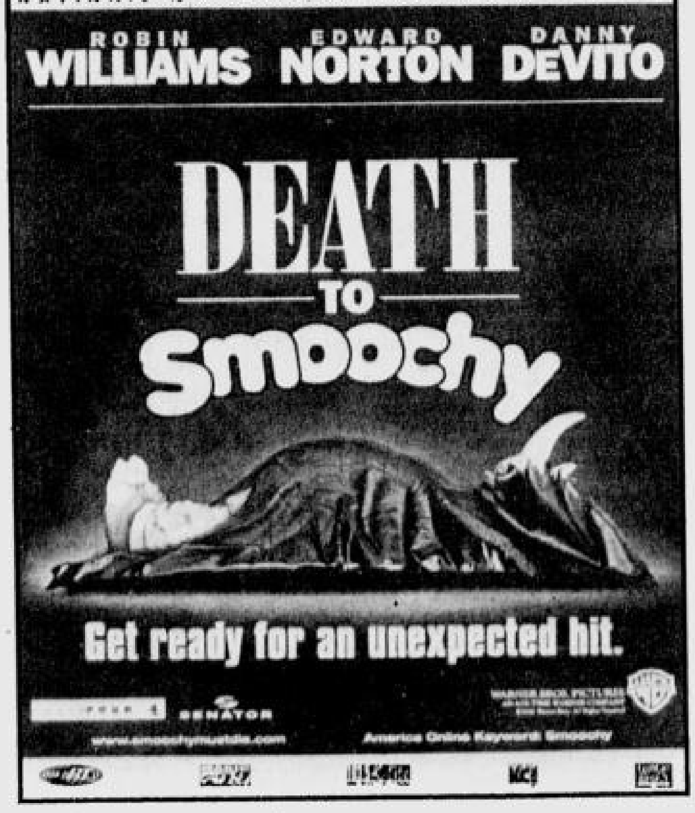
KILABOT SA TAKILYA . . .
KUMEKEMBOT SA HABA NG PILA !
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted


RAMON 'BONG' REVILLA, JR.
ASSUNTA DE ROSSI
Kilabot at Kembot
AUGUSTO "DIE" SALVADOR
IMUS PRODUCTIONS, INC.
RELEASED BY
GMA

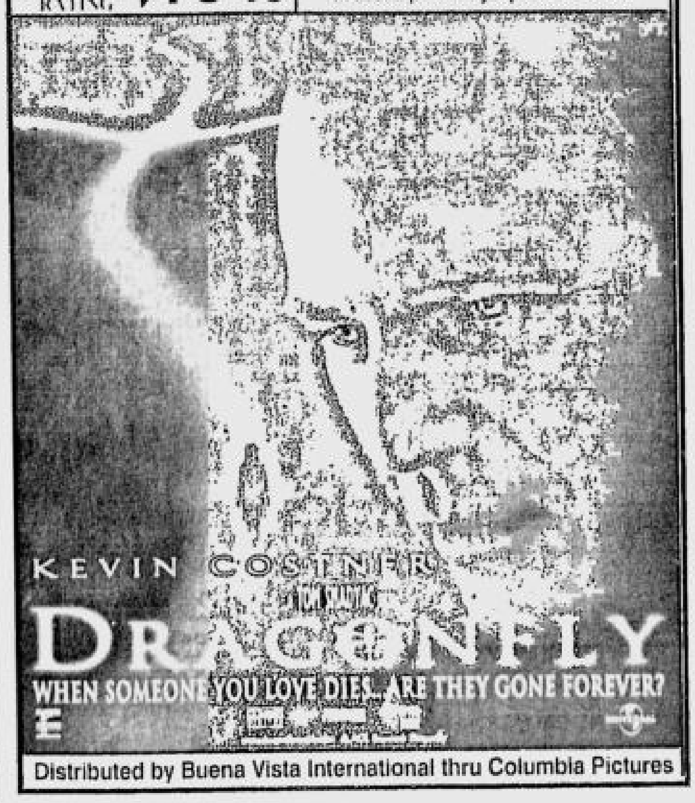
NOW ON IT'S 3RD WEEK!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

"AN EXHILARATING TWO HOURS OF SERIOUS FUN."
"THE MOST VISUALLY SPECTACULAR OF ALL STAR WARS MOVIES."
STAR WARS
EPISODE II
ATTACK OF THE CLONES.
EWAN McGREGOR NATALIE PORTMAN HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN
IAN McDIARMID SAMUEL L. JACKSON CHRISTOPHER LEE
JOHN WILLIAMS RICK McCALLUM
GEORGE LUCAS JONATHAN HALES
GEORGE LUCAS

NOW SHOWING!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


ROBIN WILLIAMS
EDWARD NORTON
DANNY DEVITO
DEATH TO Smoochy
Get ready for an unexpected hit.
SENATOR
America Online Keyword: Smoochy

OPENS JUNE 12 !
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.


KEVIN COSTNER
DRAGONFLY
WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES, ARE THEY GONE FOREVER?

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

No. 1 in the U.S. for 2 weeks!
When someone breasks in your home ...
Fight Back, Don't Panic!
3rd 'SHOCKING THRILLER' DAY!
MTRCB RATING R Restricted Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 years may be admitted

"TWO THUMBS UP"
"AN INGENIOUS AND ENTERTAINING THRILLER."
JODIE FOSTER
PANIC ROOM

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Nicholson minus the glamour in Payne's new black comedy

CANNES, France—He's depressed, he's repressed, he's bored, he's boring, he hates his wife and he hates his life.

That, basically, is the lot of Warren Schmidt, the Nebraska retiree played by Jack Nicholson in Alexander Payne's dark new comedy, "About Schmidt."

It ranks among the least glamorous roles Nicholson has ever played. At an age when many movie stars are trying to play younger characters, Nicholson, 66, ages himself with a slouchy walk, a combover and deadened spirit.

"This is the least vain performance I think I've ever given," Nicholson says. "I couldn't look at myself in the mirror for three months."

The film is Payne's third, after "Citizen Ruth," about abortion protesting, and "Election," a vicious sendup of high-school politics that earned him an Oscar nomination for best adapted screenplay.

For a third time, Payne focuses on his native Nebraska, with searingly funny results.

DIRECTOR Alexander Payne (right) with JACK Nicholson who stars in "About Schmidt."

In Payne's film, based on a novel by Louis Begley, Nicholson's Warren Schmidt retires from his job as an actuary for Woodmen of the World Insurance Company. The opening shot has him sitting at his empty desk, waiting patiently as the clock slowly ticks to 5 p.m.

Schmidt is now forced to stay home with his wife, Helen, about whom he often takes to wondering: "Who is this old woman living in my house?" Even worse, his only daughter, Jeannie, is about to get married to a peabrained waterbed salesman.

Calamity strikes when Helen dies suddenly. Warren can't cope; the dishes and dirty laundry stack up disastrously. Finally, he piles into the 35-foot motor home that he and Helen had bought to travel around the country. His goal is to patch up his tenuous relationship with Jeannie (Hope Davis), and hopefully prevent her from marrying the dweeb Randall (Dermot Mulroney, a very different groom here than the one he played in "My Best Friend's Wedding.")

Along the way, Warren visits the landmarks of his childhood in Nebraska. He also has a disastrous meeting with a couple of fellow campers, and ultimately gets to know Randall's highly dysfunctional family, including his hippie mother, played beautifully by Kathy Bates. Randall's mother likes to talk about things most people don't like, her hysterectomy and her overwhelming sex drive.

Throughout the film, Schmidt tells his tale in the form of letters to a 6-year-old Tanzanian orphan whom he decides to sponsor for $22 a month after seeing a TV ad. Soon it will become clear that the boy is the most meaningful thing in Warren's life.

Although the script of "About Schmidt," co-authored by Payne and Jim Taylor, is a standout, what one remembers from Nicholson aren't his lines, but his face—or rather the lines in his face. He seems to use each one to register distress, embarrassment, annoyance, sadness, anger or sarcasm.

Warren, Nicholson says, "is a miserable man to inhabit"—but it appears the actor had a great time inhabiting him. His longtime producer, Harry Gittes, says Nicholson called him one night early on with the epiphany that he should wear a combover in the role—something he'd never done.

Things like that, Nicholson says, are what keep him interested in the work.

"I wouldn't enjoy this job if I didn't do it different every time," he says. **AP**

CANNES FILMFEST 2002

This time, the movies were the stars

CANNES, France—Woody was there, and Jack was back. Sharon showed her stuff, and Leo passed through, too.

But the stars weren't actually the biggest news at Cannes. For critics and movie lovers, it was a great year for the films themselves, and a marked contrast from last year.

"We don't have enough prizes," jury president David Lynch complained at the beginning of Sunday's awards ceremony. But his jury, which included actresses Sharon Stone and Michelle Yeoh, divided the prizes it had across a wide spectrum of films—from minimalist to sweeping, somber to funny—in a way that seemed to have something for everyone.

The Palme d'Or went to Roman Polanski, who'd never won at Cannes despite a half-dozen visits in his long career. It was an emotional choice: "The Pianist" was his Holocaust film, made in the Poland of his youth.

Polanski was born in Paris but moved to Poland with his parents two years before World War II broke out. He survived the Krakow ghetto but lost his mother at Auschwitz. He was reunited with his father after the war.

The 68-year-old director doesn't like to tell his story, and "The Pianist" is somebody else's tale—that of Wladyslaw Szpilman, a brilliant Polish pianist who survived the Warsaw ghetto and was saved by a German officer.

In second place was "The Man Without a Past," a crowd-pleaser by Finnish veteran Aki Kaurismaki, about a man who's beaten so severely he loses his memory. He rediscovers himself—and finds love—in Helsinki's slums.

The Salvation Army worker he falls for was played by Kati Outinen, who took the best actress prize. Belgian actor Olivier Gourmet won best actor, for "The Son."

Of three American films in the competition, two went home with prizes. The jury invented one—the Cannes 55th anniversary prize—for Michael Moore's "Bowling For Columbine," a hilarious and depressing documentary on the gun culture in the United States.

Moore spoke painfully mangled high-school French in a rambling acceptance speech, and jokingly asked organizers if they'd set up a special screening for President George W. Bush, now visiting France.

Paul Thomas Anderson, who directed "Boogie Nights" and "Magnolia," won best director for "Punch-Drunk Love," in a tie with South Korea's Im Kwon-taek—who's made more than 90 films—for "Chihwaseon," about a 19th-century Korean painter.

Anderson, whose film is a twisted romantic comedy starring Adam Sandler and Emily Watson, was delighted to be at Cannes. "When they call you, you just get on that plane," he said in an interview earlier in the festival. "It's the World Series."

Many regretted that Jack Nicholson didn't win best actor for "About Schmidt," Alexander Payne's dark comedy about a depressed Nebraska retiree. For the role, Nicholson gained weight, invented a slouch and gave himself a combover.

This was a year to examine the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Amos Gitai's "Kedma," the Israeli entry, came off as a dry history lesson, but Palestinian director Elia Suleiman won a special jury prize for "Divine Intervention," a series of vignettes both humorous and disturbing.

Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz earned squeals from fans when they arrived with Martin Scorsese to present 20 minutes of the eagerly awaited "Gangs of New York," but it looked like the film's best performance would come from the chameleon-like Daniel Day-Lewis.

Of the lingering images from Cannes 2002, one has to be Woody Allen fidgeting nervously on the stage of the Lumiere theater as he received a huge ovation and a career achievement award.

The famously reclusive director got so much adoration from his French hosts that he declared it to be torture and said he'd be "talking to Amnesty International."

Then there was Sharon Stone vamping it up for the photographers, striking old-movie star poses and appearing in one fabulous gown after another (rumor had it she'd brought one big suitcase for each of 14 days.)

And finally there was Finnish director Kaurismaki's acceptance speech, bringing new meaning to the word self-congratulatory.

"First of all," he said, "I'd like to thank myself." **AP**

THE COMPANY. To dish out an all-a cappella repertoire.

The CompanY to grace international music fair

THE VOCAL sextet The CompanY will be the lone Asian featured artist in the first Explore A Cappella Festival in Singapore from May 30 to June 21.

The festival is a non-competitive music fair featuring a cappella concerts, vocal performance workshops and master classes. Also included in the schedule is the 5th Harmony Awards which seek to broaden the scope and appreciation of a cappella as an art form, by encouraging and rewarding the formation of new a cappella groups.

June 14 finds The Company performing two 15-minute sets at an especially constructed stage area at the Changi International Airport.

The group will perform an eclectic a cappella repertoire ranging from classical fugues by Bach to vintage punk rock by the B52s, from rock n' roll doo wop to jazzy flavored ditties, from '70s vintage disco to Kylie Minogue's latest dance floor burner.

The CompanY will also do Original Pilipino Music by Ryan Cayabyab.

Boyet is still my idol, says Sharon

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

EVEN after making nine movies with **Christopher de Leon**, megastar **Sharon Cuneta** confesses she still gets star-struck every time she works with the award-winning actor.

They first worked together in "Bituing Walang Ningning," where Boyet played Sharon's leading man, Nico, who discovered her and made her a singing superstar. Boyet also made a special guest appearance in the Sharon starrer, "Bukas Luluhod ang mga Tala."

"Up to this day, whenever I look at Boyet, he still looks the same as when he played Nico," Sharon says. "He doesn't seem to age. We're so comfortable working together.

"But even after working with him for a long time, I remain a Boyet fan. I couldn't believe that he was just someone I used to watch and admire. The first Tagalog movie I watched was 'Kasal,' which starred Boyet and **Hilda Koronel**."

Sharon and Boyet are paired again in "Magkapatid," Viva Films' official entry in the Manila Film Festival which reels off June 12. Boyet plays Sharon's husband who leaves her after their son dies.

"Boyet is my male idol as **Vilma (Santos)** is my female idol," Sharon says.

In "Magkapatid," she also stars with young actress **Judy Ann Santos** for the first time. Sharon plays a doctor and elder sister to Judy Ann, whom she loves so much. Judy Ann gets married at a young age to a jobless **Dingdong Dantes**, and always runs to Sharon for help. A tragedy brings the sisters apart.

"In most of my movies, I always played the quiet, underdog character," Sharon says. "But here, I'm a bit hysterical. It's a welcome change and I think the fans will like it."

"Magkapatid" director **Joel Lamangan** says Sharon has a number of dramatic highlights in the movie.

"I do not think of awards when I make movies," Sharon says, referring to predictions of awards for her performance in the new movie. "Bonus *na lang 'yon* for me. I just do my best because I want the audience to be satisfied. I also want my movies to make money. That's what's important in the industry today. We need good movies that will make money."

Marvin's option

IS **MARVIN Agustin** leaving Star Cinema?

When the 22-year-old Marvin agreed to star with **Rufa Mae Quinto** in "Super B," a fantasy-comedy-romance from Viva/Neo Films, there was talk that Marvin was leaving his home studio.

Marvin is a contract star of ABS-CBN Talent Center and was launched nearly seven years ago as a member of Star Circle Batch 2. He has made the rounds of a number of TV shows on ABS-CBN and all his previous movies were for Star Cinema—"Hey Babe," "Gimik The Movie," "Trip," "Ipaglaban Mo," "Esperanza The Movie," and others.

"Super B" is his first starrer outside the film arm of ABS-CBN. But he denies the rumor that he is leaving Star Cinema.

"I'm still under contract with Star Cinema," he says. "My contract stipulates that I can make a movie for another studio after I have done a certain number of films for Star Cinema. So it's not true that I'm leaving Star Cinema for good."

He is in **Chito Roño**'s "Dekada '70," which stars Vilma Santos and Christopher de Leon. In the movie based on the novel of the same title by **Lualhati Bautista**, Marvin plays a subversive writer in the '70s.

In "Super B," directed by **Joyce Bernal** from a screenplay by **Juan Maria Mendoza**, he plays the timid and loser boyfriend of Rufa Mae.

The fantasy-comedy is an official entry in the Manila Film Festival, which starts June 12. Others in the cast are **Troy Montero, Melanie Marquez, Mylene Dizon** and **Isabela "Duday" de Leon.**

Marvin is also in ABS-CBN's daily noontime show, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" and the weekly sitcom, "Whattamen."

He has two business ventures—Ricecapades and two franchise branches of Mister Donut, which he also endorses.

Marvin also makes a sales pitch for Smart's Talk n' Text and was recently tapped to be the image model of Molecules Shirts.

AGUSTIN. Not leaving Star Cinema

Premature opening

I WAS with a friend Friday night and we decided to check out **Tonyboy Cojuangco**'s newly opened Dreambar, at the site of the former Giraffe at 6750 Ayala Avenue, beside Starbucks.

It was a posh bar, all right, but the crowd wasn't the same as Giraffe's, where Manila's top socialites converged up to closing time.

NINTH TIME. Sharon Cuneta and Boyet de Leon in "Magkapatid."

That night at Dreambar, a three-member band performed mainstream jazz and standards in an elevated area in the center, fronting the bar and the door. After the band, rave music was played in the background.

It was only a week since the place opened, but Dreambar already wasn't serving some items on the menu. We ordered pizza and we were told the oven was out of order and they couldn't serve pizza that night. My friend ordered the crab cakes, which were also not available. There was another pasta dish on the menu that they couldn't serve.

The place was full when we got there at about 9:30 p.m. and there was not even a receptionist at the entrance to usher us to a table. The staff was hardly attentive, and our pasta orders came before the appetizer and the salad.

My friend observed that Dreambar apparently had a premature opening and the staff needed more training. I couldn't agree with him more.

Dismissed

THE LIBEL case filed by Rep. **Jackie Ponce Enrile** against GMA 7 TV host **Paolo Bediones** in connection with the statements made by "running priest" Fr. **Robert Reyes** on "Extra, Extra" has been dismissed for "lack of probable cause."

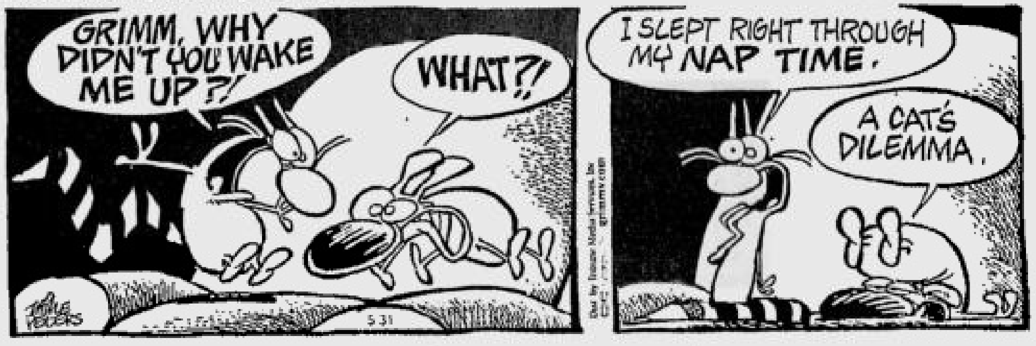
Assistant city prosecutor **Rosanna Morales Montojo** and second assistant city prosecutor **Conrado Jamolin** of the Department of Justice dismissed the case.

Bediones, who hosts "Extra, Extra," said his statement "was merely a fair report of a matter of public interest."

According to the decision, the TV host "merely acted as an introductory narrator" for the program which airs on GMA 7.

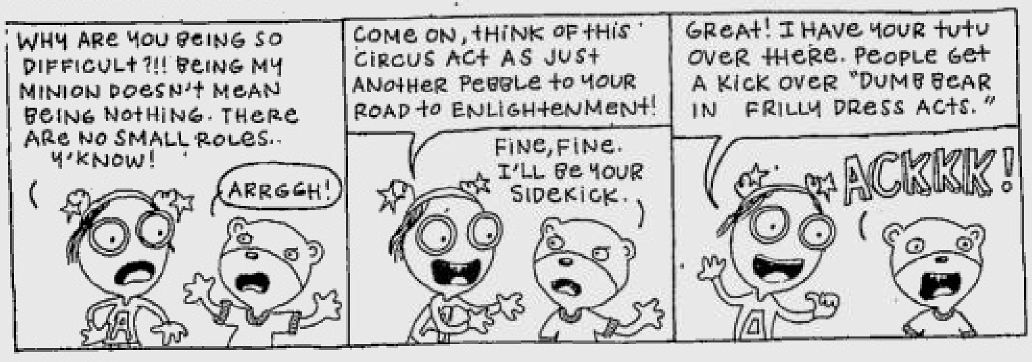
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME UP?!
WHAT?!
I SLEPT RIGHT THROUGH MY NAP TIME.
A CAT'S DILEMMA.
5-31

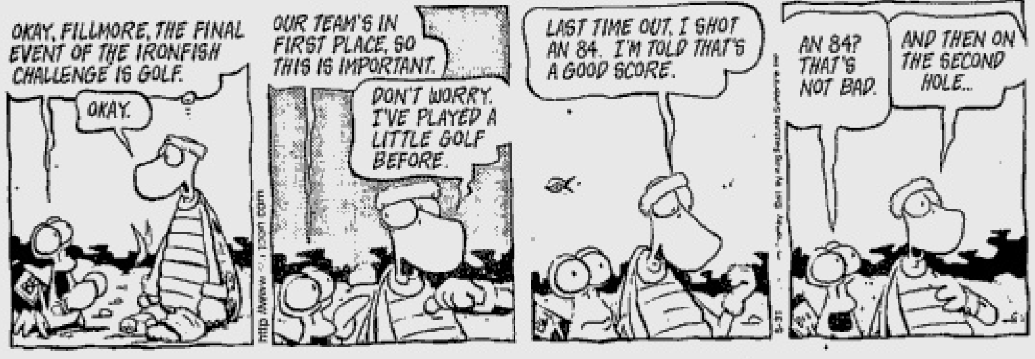
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHY ARE YOU BEING SO DIFFICULT?!! BEING MY MINION DOESN'T MEAN BEING NOTHING. THERE ARE NO SMALL ROLES.. Y'KNOW!
ARRGGH!
COME ON, THINK OF THIS CIRCUS ACT AS JUST ANOTHER PEBBLE TO YOUR ROAD TO ENLIGHTENMENT!
FINE, FINE. I'LL BE YOUR SIDEKICK.
GREAT! I HAVE YOUR TUTU OVER THERE. PEOPLE GET A KICK OVER "DUMB BEAR IN FRILLY DRESS ACTS."
ACKKK!

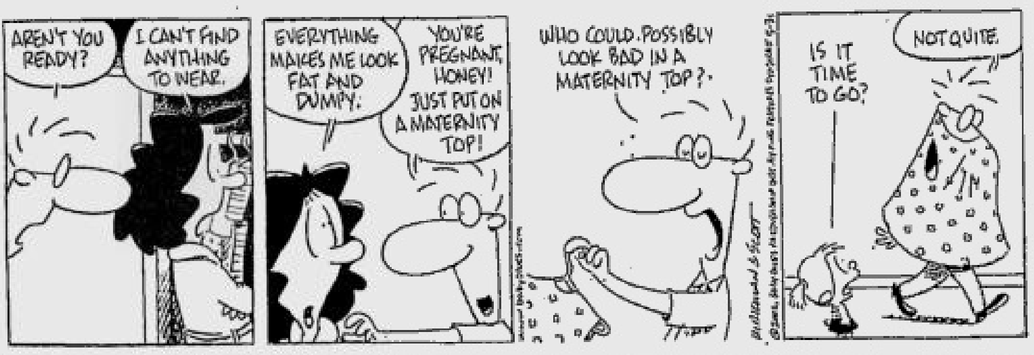
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, FILLMORE, THE FINAL EVENT OF THE IRONFISH CHALLENGE IS GOLF.
OKAY.
OUR TEAM'S IN FIRST PLACE, SO THIS IS IMPORTANT.
DON'T WORRY. I'VE PLAYED A LITTLE GOLF BEFORE.
LAST TIME OUT, I SHOT AN 84. I'M TOLD THAT'S A GOOD SCORE.
AN 84? THAT'S NOT BAD.
AND THEN ON THE SECOND HOLE...

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


AREN'T YOU READY?
I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING TO WEAR.
EVERYTHING MAKES ME LOOK FAT AND DUMPY.
YOU'RE PREGNANT, HONEY! JUST PUT ON A MATERNITY TOP!
WHO COULD POSSIBLY LOOK BAD IN A MATERNITY TOP?
IS IT TIME TO GO?
NOT QUITE.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Clint Eastwood, Brooke Shields, Prince Rainier, Lea Thompson

Happy Birthday: You will have creative ideas when it comes to investments this year and you will get other people interested. Involvement in fanatical groups must be avoided at all costs as they will influence you in a negative manner. Use your energy wisely. Your numbers are 10, 15, 26, 32, 38, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get out and fulfill your dreams, hopes and wishes. It's time for you to be responsible for your future and your success. Success is just around the corner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone may lead you astray if you keep second-guessing yourself. Focus on what you can do to get ahead in your chosen field. If no one realizes your potential nothing is likely to be accomplished.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have everything at your fingertips today. Take advantage of the offers being made. Don't let someone else's negativity rain on your parade.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pull out those old photographs and daydream a little. It will relax you and spark some great ideas for future projects. Take care of financial matters that need to be updated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Partnerships will be blessed with favorable results. Your independent nature will enable you to take a lead position. You will be able to keep things in perspective and come up with great suggestions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can rely on your colleagues to help you out today. New developments will be made available to you regarding health and lifestyle changes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be able to fulfill your wildest dreams today. Don't sit back procrastinating. Get out and join in the fun. Social events will turn out to be much better than you anticipate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It may be time to focus a little of your attention to fixing up your home or spending more time with family. Consider the possibilities and how you can make your place more comfortable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel and excitement will be your intent today. The more you talk to friends the more opportunities will arise to do things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be winding down a workweek but getting ahead and making money should be on your mind today. The chance to advance or to make strategic moves that will help raise your income is evident.

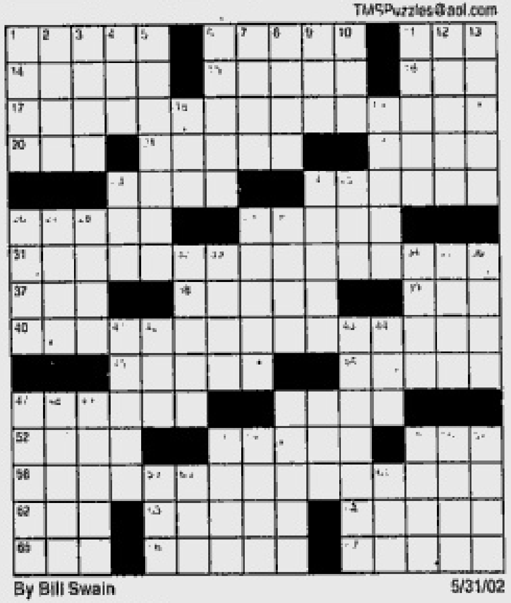
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You better make sure you've scheduled enough activities to keep yourself busy. Idle time will lead to emotional turmoil. Try to get involved in creative endeavors.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be tempted to get involved in something that may not be the best for you. Secret encounters may lead to an exciting and stimulating adventure but you will have to be discreet.

Birthday Baby: You will have a practical, well-disciplined, logical way of thinking, with a genuine interest in others. You will welcome new adventures and actively search for knowledge. You will do whatever is necessary to protect your family.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Bill Swain
New Port Richey, FL

5/31/02

ACROSS

1 Shallows
6 __ Rice Burroughs
11 Ambulance grp.
14 Flexible joint
15 Captain Nemo's creator
16 Like sushi
17 Start of a quip
20 Pizza, e.g.
21 Fragrant yellow flower
22 Served perfectly
23 Assists
24 Recently
26 Minor arguments
29 Swung around
31 Part 2 of quip
37 Parseghian of football
38 Small green bird
39 Actress Long
40 Part 3 of quip
45 Wristwatch part
46 Ike's wife
47 Large groups
50 Radar image
52 Jai follower
53 EDS founder
55 Ryan of "City of Angels"
58 End of quip
62 Blowup of a pic
63 Ice masses
64 __ cotta
65 Get the point
66 Live
67 Glorify

DOWN

1 Send packing?
2 Outmoded sound system
3 As soon as
4 In the past
5 One wing's ideology
6 Levels
7 Sandra and Ruby
8 Gloomy
9 Raggedy doll
10 Comic Skelton
11 Writer Jong
12 "Olympia" painter
13 Borg or Sorenstam
18 Rage
19 Ralph __ Emerson
23 Lunched
24 From within
25 "A __ Good Men"
26 Sailor's mop
27 Pierre's old man
28 Composer Khachaturian
29 Landing area
30 Willingly, once
32 Civil Rights martyr
33 Radames' sweetheart
34 E pluribus __
35 Andrews film, "Darling __"
36 Dinner and a movie, perhaps
41 Actor Davis
42 Hwy.
43 Replicate
44 Lid
47 Spouses
48 "Home __"
49 Weasellike mammal
50 Brittany seaport
51 Plat section
53 Gilpin of "Frasier"
54 Omelet requirement
55 Sorvino of "Mighty Aphrodite"
56 British peer
57 Pesky insect
59 Pres. Lincoln
60 Annoy
61 Movie critic Reed

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	V	E	■	T	A	L	C	■	S	L	A	M	S
A	M	E	N	■	O	V	A	L	■	I	O	N	I	A
F	A	S	T	E	N	A	D	E	A	D	B	O	L	T
E	N	T	I	R	E	■	S	A	M	E	■	D	E	B
■	■	■	T	A	D	S	■	R	O	B	B	E	R	Y
O	B	E	Y	■	O	N	E	■	S	U	E	■	■	■
A	L	P	■	A	W	A	R	E	■	R	A	J	A	H
K	E	E	P	I	N	I	N	V	E	N	T	O	R	Y
S	W	E	A	R	■	L	I	E	N	S	■	L	E	A
■	■	■	P	I	E	■	E	R	R	■	E	L	A	N
N	O	C	A	N	D	O	■	T	I	E	R	■	■	■
I	D	A	■	T	I	C	S	■	C	O	U	P	L	E
M	O	V	E	A	T	H	I	G	H	S	P	E	E	D
B	R	E	A	K	■	E	R	I	E	■	T	E	E	D
I	S	S	U	E	■	R	E	N	D	■	S	P	R	Y

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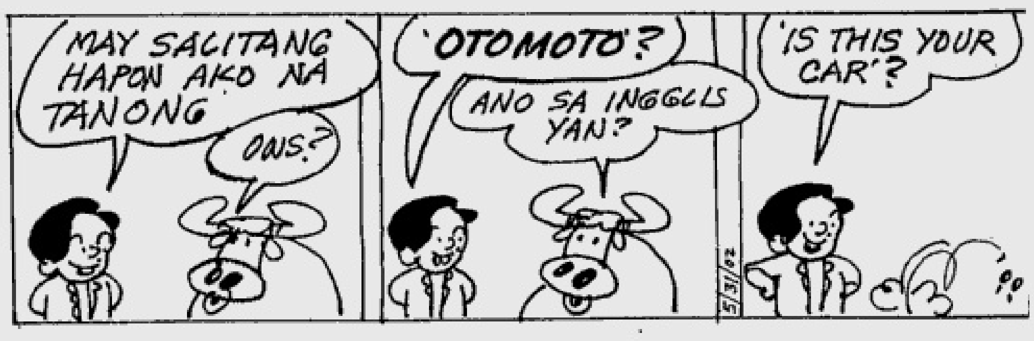
5/31/02

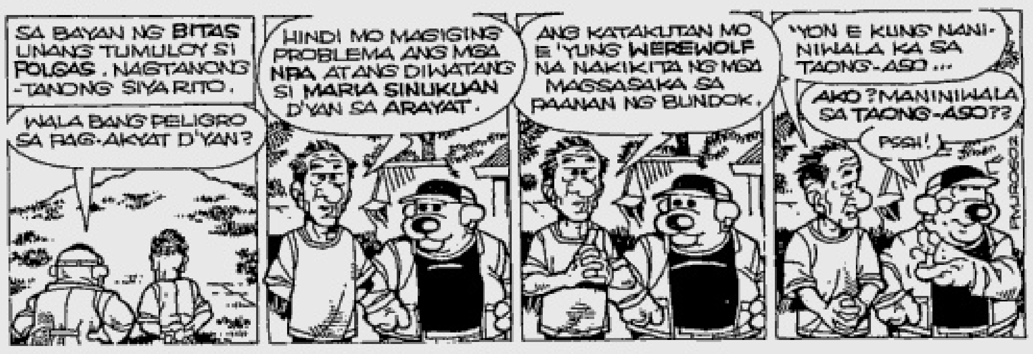
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAY SALITANG HAPON AKO NA TANONG
ONS?
'OTOMOTO'?
ANO SA INGGLIS YAN?
'IS THIS YOUR CAR'?
5/31/02

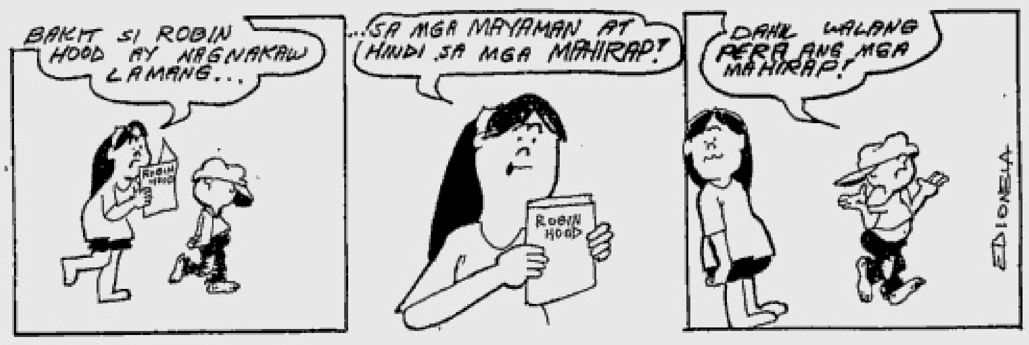
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA BAYAN NG BITAS UNANG TUMULOY SI POLGAS. NAGTANONG-TANONG SIYA RITO.
WALA BANG PELIGRO SA PAG-AKYAT D'YAN?
HINDI MO MAGIGING PROBLEMA ANG MGA NPA AT ANG DIWATANG SI MARIA SINUKUAN D'YAN SA ARAYAT.
ANG KATAKUTAN MO E 'YUNG WEREWOLF NA NAKIKITA NG MGA MAGSASAKA SA PAANAN NG BUNDOK.
'YON E KUNG NANINIWALA KA SA TAONG-ASO...
AKO? MANINIWALA SA TAONG-ASO?
PSSH!

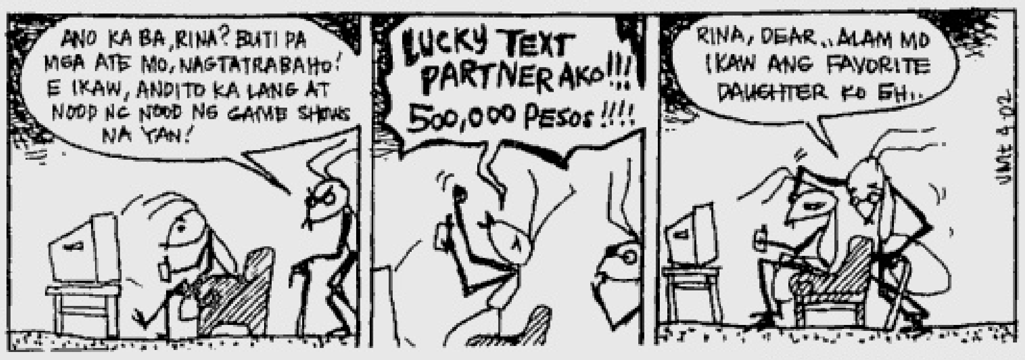
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BAKIT SI ROBIN HOOD AY NAGNAKAW LAMANG...
...SA MGA MAYAMAN AT HINDI SA MGA MAHIRAP?
DAHIL WALANG PERA ANG MGA MAHIRAP!
ROBIN HOOD
DIONELA

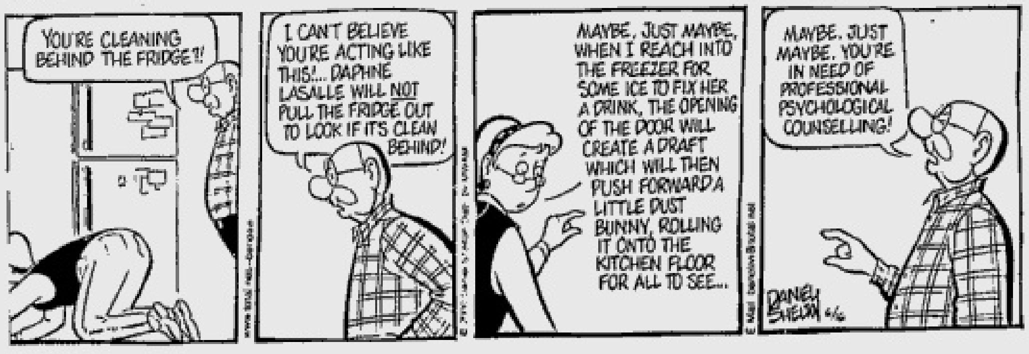
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO KA BA, RINA? BUTI PA MGA ATE MO, NAGTATRABAHO! E IKAW, ANDITO KA LANG AT NOOD NG NOOD NG GAME SHOWS NA YAN!
LUCKY TEXT PARTNER AKO!!! 500,000 PESOS!!!!
RINA, DEAR.. ALAM MO IKAW ANG FAVORITE DAUGHTER KO EH..

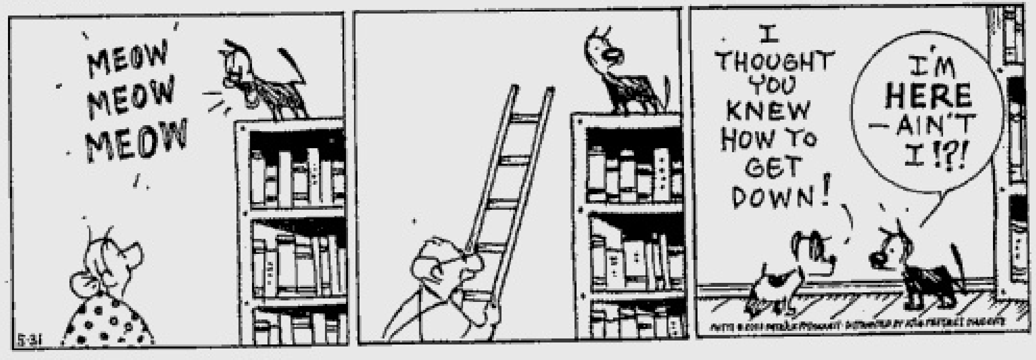
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU'RE CLEANING BEHIND THE FRIDGE?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ACTING LIKE THIS!... DAPHNE LASALLE WILL NOT PULL THE FRIDGE OUT TO LOOK IF IT'S CLEAN BEHIND!
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, WHEN I REACH INTO THE FREEZER FOR SOME ICE TO FIX HER A DRINK, THE OPENING OF THE DOOR WILL CREATE A DRAFT WHICH WILL THEN PUSH FORWARD A LITTLE DUST BUNNY, ROLLING IT ONTO THE KITCHEN FLOOR FOR ALL TO SEE...
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, YOU'RE IN NEED OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING!
DANIEL SHELTON

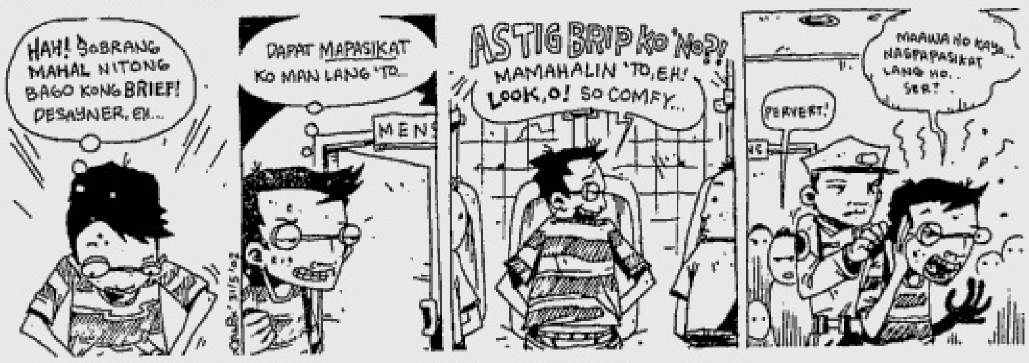
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MEOW MEOW MEOW
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW HOW TO GET DOWN!
I'M HERE - AIN'T I!?!
5-31

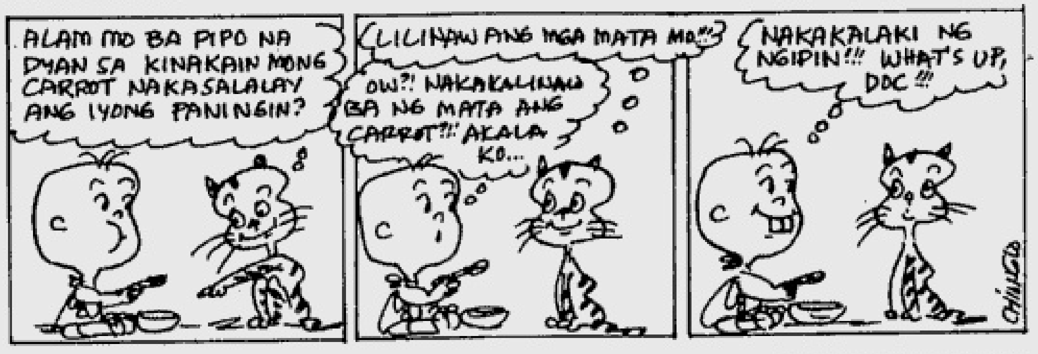
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! SOBRANG MAHAL NITONG BAGO KONG BRIEF! DESAYNER, EH...
DAPAT MAPASIKAT KO MAN LANG 'TO...
MENS
ASTIG BRIP KO 'NO?!
MAMAHALIN 'TO, EH! LOOK, O! SO COMFY...
PERVERT!
MAAWA HO KAYO... NAGPAPASIKAT LANG HO.. SER?

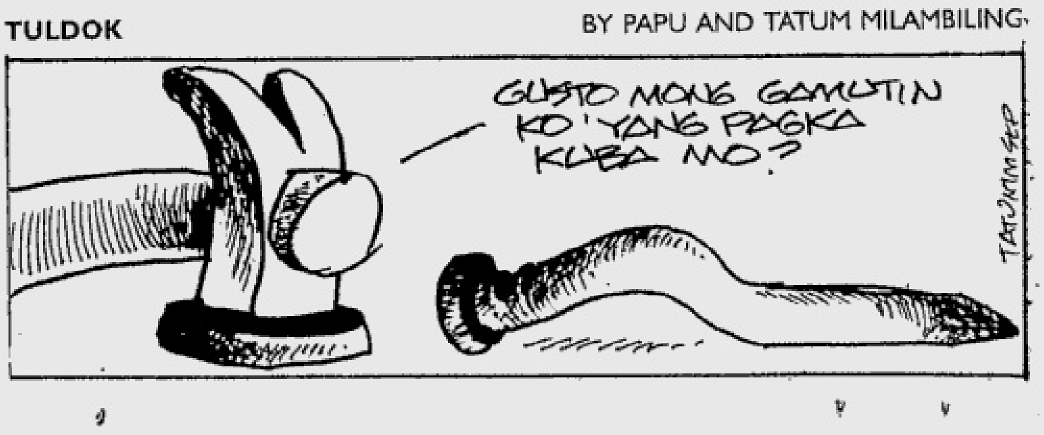
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO BA PIPO NA DYAN SA KINAKAIN MONG CARROT NAKASALALAY ANG IYONG PANINGIN?
LILINAW ANG MGA MATA MO!!
OW?! NAKAKALINAW BA NG MATA ANG CARROT?!! AKALA KO...
NAKAKALAKI NG NGIPIN!!! WHAT'S UP, DOC!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GUSTO MONG GAMUTIN KO 'YANG PAGKA KUBA MO?
TATUM

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
SELECTED AIRPORT (TRUNKLINE) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Commitiee (SPBAC)

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Date: 17 May 2002
Contract No.: SAPD/BCD/01

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received ODA Loans from Japan Bank for International Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as JBIC, in the total amount of 17,471 million Yen toward the cost of the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project, Loan Agreement Nos. PH-P190 and PH-P219, signed on 10 September 1998 and 30 May 2001 respectively, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued. Disbursement of the ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the 'Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans'. No party other than the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to Loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. The Department of Transportation and Communications, hereinafter referred to as "the Employer," intends to prequalify contractors for the following works under this project:

   The Work under this Contract comprises all Works associated with and incidental to the Development of the New Bacolod (Silay) Airport under the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project located at Silay City, Negros Occidental.

   The full extent of the Works are described in the Drawings, Specifications and Bills of Quantities but generally comprises (i) Civil Works; (ii) Architectural/Structural Works; (iii) Electrical Works; (iv) Mechanical Works; (v) Air Navigation System; (vi) Aviation Fuel Supply System and (vii) Supply of Command Car for Rescue and Fire Fighting.
4. It is expected that Invitations to Bid will be made in September 2002.
5. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures and joint operations (herein after collectively referred to as "Joint Ventures") from all countries and areas, in accordance with the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans.
6. Foreign contractor applicants should be licensed in their country/area and authenticated by their embassy/consulate in the Philippines. Local contractor applicants should be registered and classified by the Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of Contractors as Large "B" for "Airport Horizontal Structures, Airport Navigation Facilities and Airport Building" and holding PCAB "AAA" license. In case of a Joint Venture, each of the members must satisfy the registration and classification requirements in order to meet, jointly and severally, any and all obligations which the Joint Venture may incur.
7. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents by presenting a Letter of Request and payment of the sum described in item (8) below from 03 June 2002 to 07 June 2002 (8:00 hours to 17:00 hours) at:

   The Project Director
   Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project
   DOTC - Project Management Office
   Unit 7D, 7th Floor, Strata 2000 Building
   Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605, Metro Manila
   Telephone: +63 (2) 637-1187, Facsimile: +63 (2) 637-3061
8. The request must clearly state "Request for Prequalification Documents for Contract No. SADP/BCD/01, the Development of New Bacolod (Silay) Airport under the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project. The documents are available upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 10,000 Pesos or US$200 at DOTC Cashier's Office, 5th Floor, the Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) will promptly dispatch the documents either by direct pick-up of the Applicant's representative or by registered airmail, but under no circumstances will DOTC be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed.
9. A minimum experience and financial requirements for qualification:
   (a) the firm responsible for the installation of (i) air navigation system and (ii) aviation fuel and supply system shall either be a Joint Venture Partner (in case of Joint Venture) or a Specialist Subcontractor designated/appointed by the Applicant.
   (b) the Applicant (collectively in case of JV) shall have an average annual turnover (defined as billing for work in progress and completed) as prime contractor over the last 5 years of US$ 100 million equivalent;
   (c) the Applicant (collectively in case of JV) shall have certified experience as prime contractor in the successful execution of at least three (3) projects (at least one [1] project of which should be outside its home country) of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract for each of the following major project components within the last 10 years;

MAJOR PROJECT COMPONENTS	MINIMUM CONTRACT VALUE FOR EACH PROJECT (US Dollar equivalent)
Runway, Taxiway and/or Apron	US $ 9M
Airport Passenger Terminal Building, Control Tower and/or Operations Building	US $ 9M

   (d) the Joint Venture Partner or the Specialist Subcontractor who shall be responsible in providing the specialized inputs (i, e, air navigation systems and/or aviation fuel supply systems) shall individually have certified experience as prime contractor in the successful execution of at least three (3) projects of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract within the last 10 years: The minimum value of each project is specified below:

MAJOR PROJECT COMPONENTS (Specialized Inputs)	MINIMUM CONTRACT VALUE FOR EACH PROJECT (US Dollar equivalent)
Air Navigation System	US $ 8.5M
Aviation Fuel Supply System	US $ 5.5M

   (e) the Applicant (Lead Partner in case of JV) shall have certified experience as prime contractor in the successful execution of at least one (1) project of transportation civil works in an ASEAN country within the last 10 years. The minimum value of each project shall e US$ 10 million equivalent;
   (f) the Applicant (collectively in case of JV) should have submitted a Bank Letter stating that such Bank considers to issue a specific credit line of at least US$ 20 million to meet the construction cash flow requirement for the Construction of New Bacolod (Silay) Airport, when and if the contract is awarded to the Applicant.
   (g) the Applicant (each Partner in case of JV) shall demonstrate, by submission of audited financial statement, positive ordinary profit for at least three (3) years out of the last five (5) years.
   (h) the Lead Partner (in case the Applicant is a Joint Venture) shall be a Contractor engaged in construction and/or civil works and shall meet not less than 40% of the qualifying criteria given under items 9 (b) and 9 (f) above.
   (i) Each of the other partners (in case the Applicant is a Joint Venture) shall meet individually not less than 25% of the qualifying criteria given in items 9 (b) and 9 (f) above.
10. Submissions of Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, either delivered by hand or by registered mail to:

    The Chairman
    Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee
    Selected Airport (Trunkline) Development Project
    Unit 7D, 7th Floor, Strata 2000 Building,
    Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila
    not later than: 17:00 hours on 22 July 2002

    and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Contract No. SADP/BCD 01, the Development of New Bacolod (Silay) Airport under the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project."
11. The Department of Transportation and Communications reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
12. Applicants will be advised, in due time, of the results of their applications. Only firms and Joint Ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to bid

(Sgd.) ALAN ADENA TAN
Assistant Secretary, and
SPBAC Chairman

(PDI--May 18, 21 & 31, 2002)

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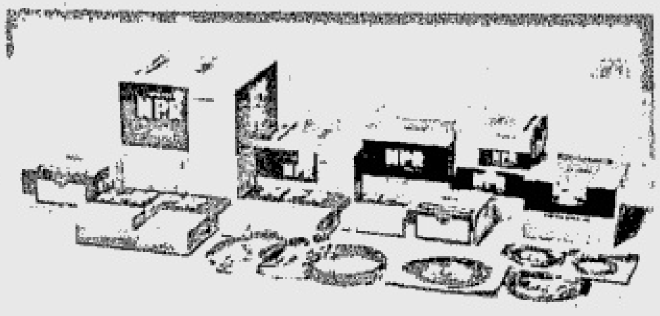
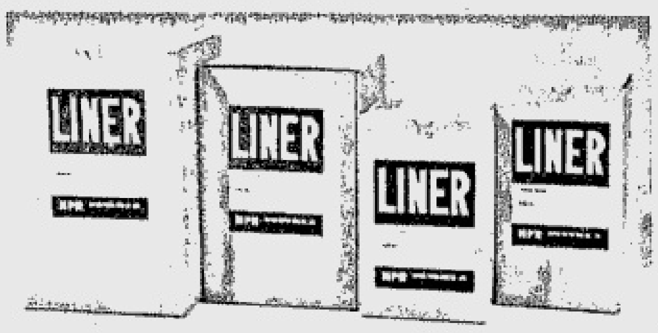
It is to your best interest to voluntarily surrender all fake NPR products and all products bearing imitations of the "NPR" trademark to the counsel mentioned below.

Please direct any information and inquiry regarding the illegal use and imitation of the "NPR" trademark and the sources of fake NPR products to the counsel mentioned below.

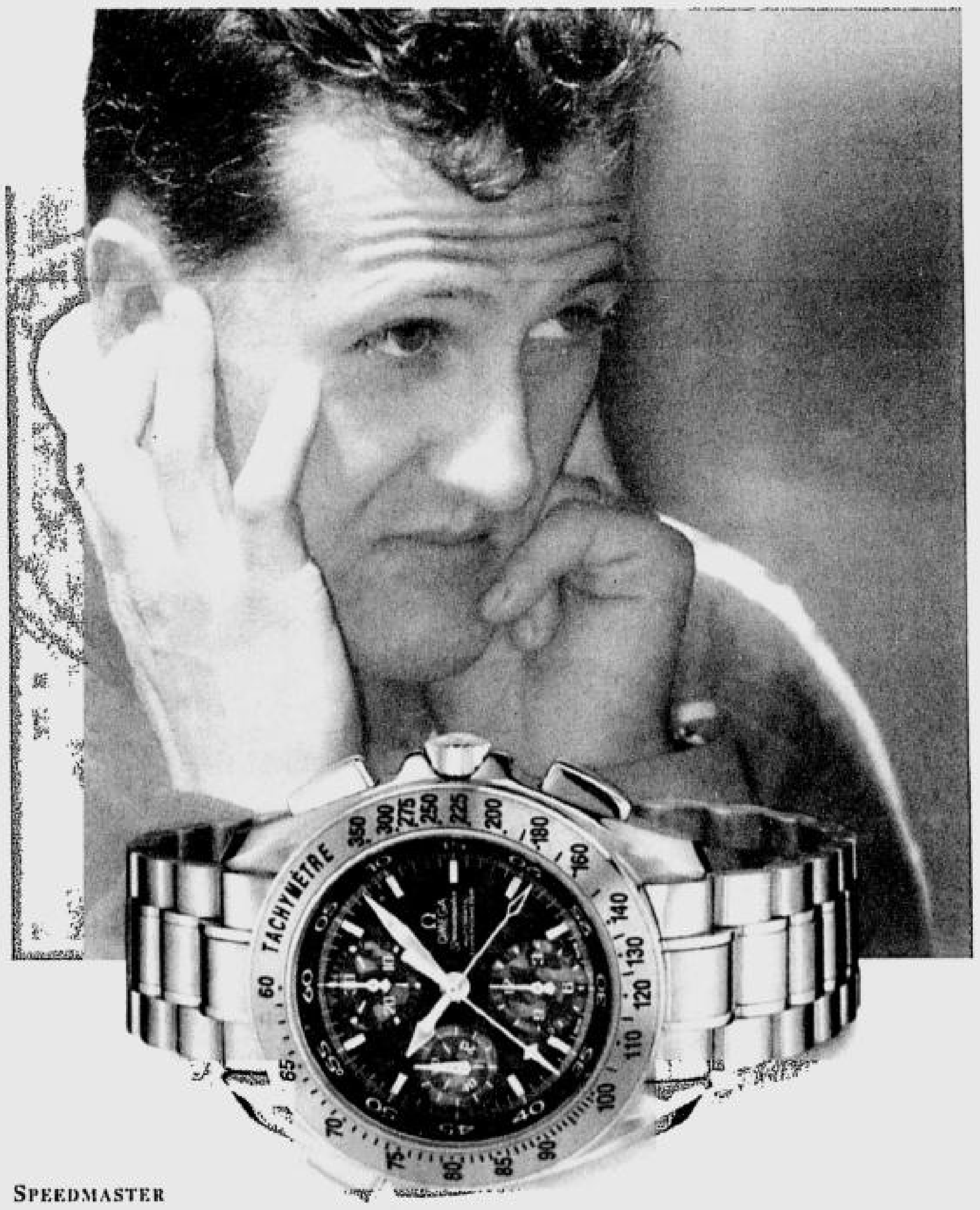
PIO LORENZO F. BATINO
Suite 302 Mercantile Insurance Bldg.
General Luna corner Beaterio Sts.
Intramuros, Manila
Tel Nos. 5270809 and 5270796 Fax: 5270671





NIPPON PISTON RING CO., LTD.,
No. 12-10, 5-Chrome, Honmachi-Higashi,
Saitama-City, Saitama, Japan

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER'S CHOICE



SPEEDMASTER

The Omega Speedmaster split-seconds is the only chronograph that survived NASA's two-year tests. Since then it has proven itself in the extreme condition of space travel – reaching speeds of up to 40,000 km/h and operating in zero gravity. It is only natural that quadruple world champion Michael Schumacher wears the most tested watch in the universe.

Ω OMEGA
www.omegawatches.com

Economic downturn hits Singapore no-tobacco drive

SINGAPORE—Singapore's anti-smoking campaign has been hit by the economic downturn, with a 20-percent drop in the number of shops and bars refusing to sell cigarettes in support of "World No Tobacco Day," organizers said Thursday.

About 400 outlets have pledged not to sell cigarettes on Friday, down from more than 500 last year.

"Many people have called us to say that due to the economic downturn, they do not want to do anything that could jeopardize business," National Smoking Control campaign manager Choo Lin told AFP.

With Singapore caught in a deep recession, Choo said she "fully understood" the position of retailers continuing to sell tobacco products.

Although only about 15 percent of Singapore's 4-million population are smokers, one of the lowest rates in Asia, surveys show a rise in the number of young people taking up smoking, particularly women.

Choo said that was why the campaign this year was targeting places popular with young adults.

At the waterfront Harry's Bar on Boat Quay, one of nearly 30 pubs and discos taking part in the campaign, smoking will not be banned, but there will be no ashtrays handy.

"We'll give out ashtrays on request and, at the same time, ask our customers if they'd like to step outside for a cigarette just for this one day," pub manager Margaret Woodward told the Straits Times.

The bar will also be distributing leaflets on how to quit smoking but had no plans to stop selling cigarettes after "World No Tobacco Day" because it was a customer service, she said.

Health authorities in the city-state have previously used graphic pictures of blood oozing from a ruptured brain tumor and fatty deposits being squeezed from arteries to get across their message.

But Choo said that after three years "the effect had gone a bit stale," which was why the campaign had been refocused on young people.

"The purpose is really to create a culture where not smoking is the norm, and is seen as the trendy and hip thing to do." *AFP*

FinePix
FUJIFILM
F401

JAPAN'S Fujifilm employee Mayuko Kawagishi displays a new digital camera, the FinePix F401, equipped with a 2.1-megapixel honeycomb CCD on its image sensor and a 5.7-17.1mm/F2.8-4.8 zoom lens at a Tokyo hotel. Fujifilm will put it on the market on June 19 with a price of 64,800 yen ($520). AFP

Japan's Hayami says time needed to beat deflation

TOKYO—Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami said on Thursday it would take time for prices to start rising and deflation to end, underscoring a widespread view the central bank will keep interest rates at zero for a while yet.

The central bank shifted last year to "quantitative easing"—flooding the money market with excess funds and effectively keeping interest rates at zero—and pledged to stick to it until year-on-year changes in core CPI stabilize at or above zero.

"It will take considerable time before the consumer price index starts to show positive growth year-on-year," Hayami said in a speech, while noting a slowing pace of declines in wholesale prices.

Consumer prices have been falling for three years. In March, core nationwide CPI dipped 0.7 percent from a year earlier, the 30th straight month of decline. April data is due on Friday.

At its latest two-day policy-setting meeting which ended on May 21, the Bank of Japan decided to keep its liquidity target between 10 to 15 trillion yen ($80 billion to $120 billion), vastly exceeding the amount of funds needed in the money market.

Despite the stubborn fall in prices, a recent recovery in exports and production has boosted hopes that the world's second biggest economy is emerging from recession.

Hayami noted that the central bank, like the government, had upgraded its view of business conditions for three straight months. *Reuters*

FOREIGN BRIEFS

SAB to buy Miller

LONDON—South African Breweries Plc on Thursday concluded weeks of talks and agreed to buy Miller Brewing in a $5.6-billion deal to catapult the enlarged group to No. 2 in world brewing behind Anheuser-Busch

London-based SAB is paying $3.6 billion in shares to Miller's owners, Philip Morris, and paying off $2 billion in Miller's debt, which will give the US Marlboro cigarette and Kraft food group a 36-percent economic interest in the enlarged brewer, to be called SABMiller Plc.

SAB, the world's No. 4 brewer with the Castle and Pilsner Urquell brands and a major player in Africa, China and eastern Europe, is joining forces with No. 6 Miller, which has a fifth of the US beer market, making it No. 2 in the world's largest beer market after Budweiser-brewer Anheuser-Busch. *Reuters*

Chipmakers boost output

TOKYO—Japan's leading chipmakers said Thursday they were boosting semiconductor production to meet reviving global demand and two—NEC Corp. and Fujitsu Ltd.—were back to operating at full capacity.

"We are back to full capacity with all semiconductor-related divisions," said a spokesperson for NEC, one of the world's largest semiconductor makers.

He added that demand for chips for liquid crystal displays had taken off.

A global slump in demand for technology last year forced many firms to close down some semiconductor lines and reduce output. But orders have been recovering since the start of 2002, enabling companies to crank up production again.

Fujitsu spokesperson Kazataka Saito said demand for flash memory chips was improving and production at the company's factories was almost back to full capacity.

This time last year, Fujitsu's semiconductor division was only working at 50 percent of its full potential, he said. *AFP*

Exports to lift HK

HONG KONG—Hong Kong is expected to report on Friday that its economy improved slightly in the first quarter, helped by a rosier export picture as manufacturers in key overseas markets restock depleted inventories.

But economists said the reluctance of local consumers to spend on durable goods and property raises questions about the strength and sustainability of the overall recovery.

"We should see more positive economic numbers in the second half, but on the domestic side, we are still far from a sustained economic recovery," said Henry Tsoi, senior economist at Hang Seng Bank in Hong Kong.

Five economists surveyed by Reuters predicted either that the economy contracted at a slower rate in the first quarter or made a very modest swing to positive growth. The estimates ranged from a contraction of 1.2 percent year-on-year to a 0.5-percent expansion. *Reuters*

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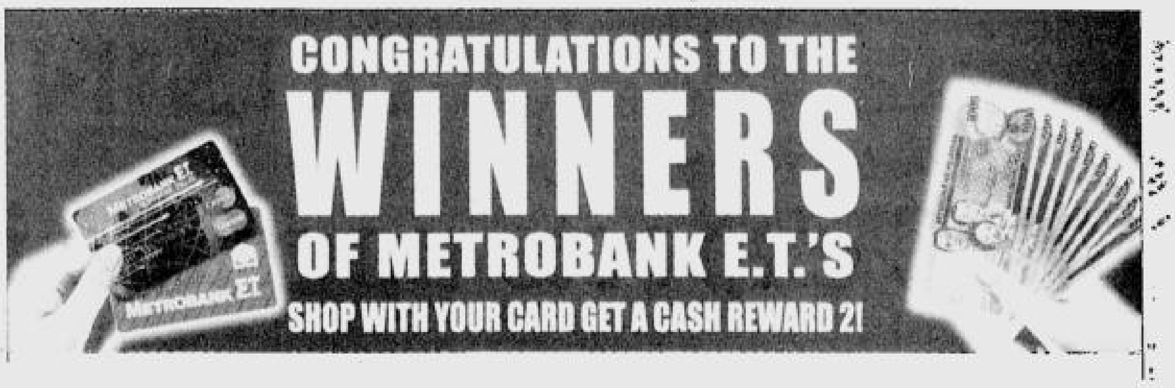
HSBC expects upgrade . . .

From page B24

The foreign bank, however, projected a lower gross domestic product growth of 3.5 percent this year and 3.6 percent in 2003 as compared to the government projections of 4 percent to 4.6 percent this year.

The GDP grew by 3.8 percent in the first quarter, which was in the lower end of the 3.8 to 4.3 percent range estimated by Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas.

"Inevitably risks remain. Balancing fiscal policy will remain the government's near term Achilles heel. We believe the government will attain its P130-billion deficit goal for the year," it added.



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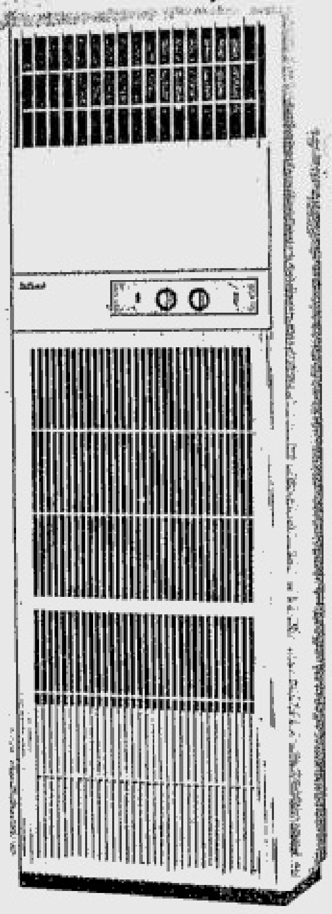

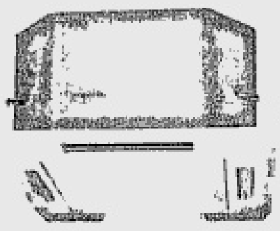

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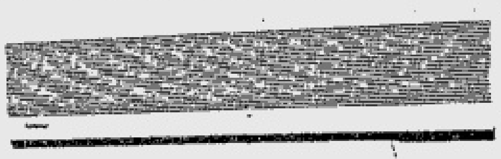

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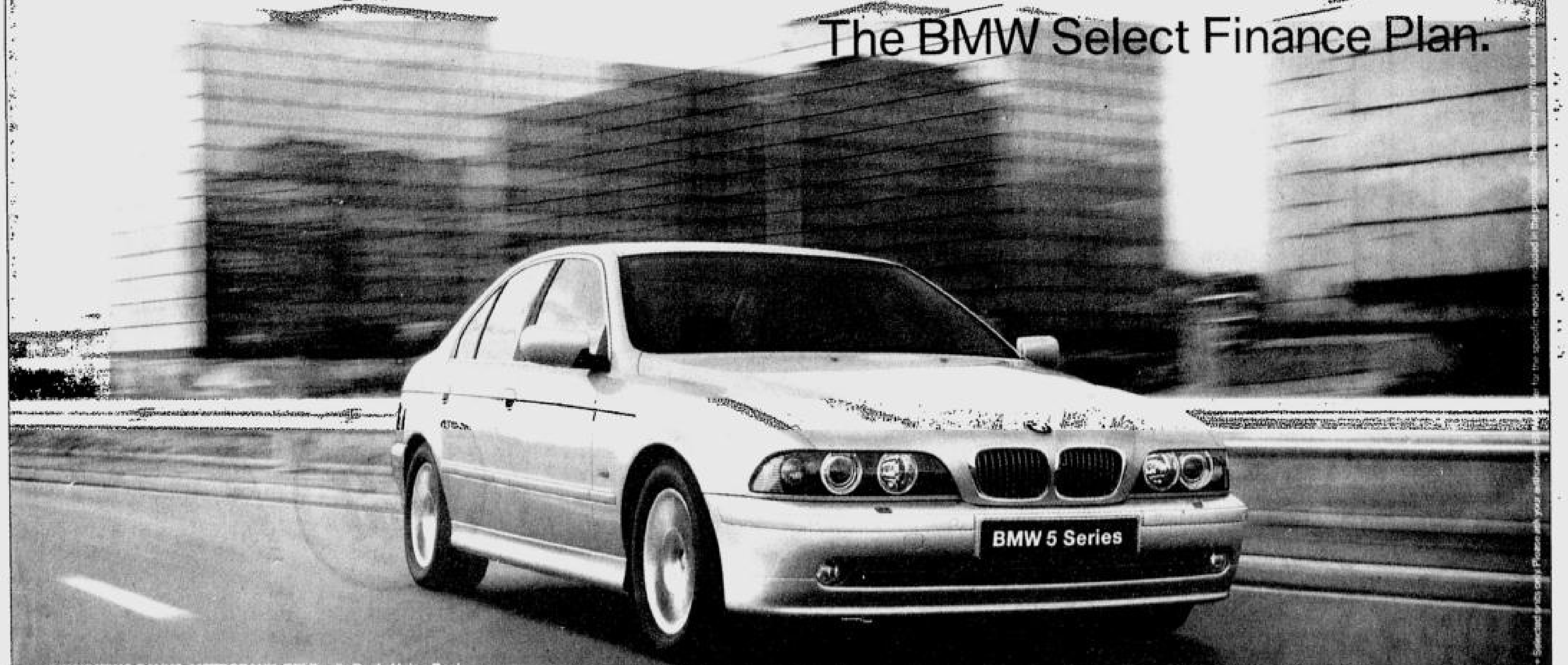

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BUSINESS

HSBC expects upgrade in RP credit rating

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN bank HSBC said the country's improving economy and political environment should convince foreign credit rating agencies to raise the Philippines' debt rating to investment grade or to give it a positive outlook late this year.

HSBC, in its latest regional report, said the financial markets were already taking into account improvements in the Philippines' fundamentals as reflected by the continued decline in spreads on the government's foreign borrowings.

"The market is gradually re-pricing the Republic of the Philippines' fundamentals positively. In our view, this re-pricing is driven by a favorable assessment of the current government's ability and willingness to engineer a sustainable recovery," said the foreign bank.

Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's both rated Philippine credit a notch below investment grade at Ba1 and BB+. Both have revised their outlook for the country from negative to stable during the first quarter.

Fitch, a European-based rating agency, is expected to upgrade its credit rating on the Philippines to positive from stable. Japan Credit Rating Agency had raised its rating for the Philippines to investment grade during the early days of the Macapagal administration.

HSBC said its in-house credit group had already assigned a BBB or investment grade rating to the Philippines. A good credit rating brings down the cost of government and private sector borrowings.

The foreign bank noted that spreads on long-term government borrowings had further tightened by 10 to 12 basis points even after the Department of Finance announced that the budget deficit target of P52.933 billion in the first quarter was exceeded by 15.6 percent.

"This amply demonstrates improving investor appetite toward Philippine risk," said HSBC in its report.

HSBC said the market had aggressively re-priced Philippine borrowings under the Macapagal administration to the 400-basis points area. "In fact, in the next 12 months, we believe that the average spreads can test the Ramos levels of about 250 basis points," it added.

HSBC/ B23

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BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

The Outback Special
345
OUTBACK
RESTAURANT

Learning business ethics from the Dalai Lama

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

NOT a few with the corporate world fail to see the fit and relevance between *business*, viewed as temporal and material, and *ethics*, a discipline largely associated with the scientific study of moral standards that are reasonable, right and justifiable.

Academic institutions quick to recognize this ineptness among many business professionals which is likely to have arisen because of the huge gap between theory and manifested business practice or behavior, have introduced the subject *Business Ethics*.

The subject dwells expansively on the study of moral standards as they become applicable to the field of business, organizations and behavior among business professionals and stakeholders in the business environment.

Much of today's Business Ethics classes deal with the ethical principles of utilitarianism (i.e., this

LEARNING/ C4

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Getting a crocodile to kill mosquitoes

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MARKETING STRATEGY

TROPICAL countries like the Philippines are target markets of companies selling insecticides, and for more than 40 years, companies like Bayer Corp. and SC Johnson ruled it over the lucrative market of 70 million hygiene-conscious Filipinos.

Last year, Grovery Corp. introduced to the market a new line of insecticides that it hopes would loosen the competition's hold on the market for cockroach and mosquito killers.

Grovery's strategy is simple: offer a product with attributes the market has not seen before, be it in terms of packaging or content, and target not just the housewives but the children who usually accompany them to the groceries and supermarkets.

This explains why Grovery sold its line of environment-friendly insecticides under the brand name Crocodile with the spray cans sporting a caricature of the animal.

The new and friendlier look, compared with the other cans emblazoned with a large cockroach or mosquito, helps make Crocodile spray cans stand out from the competition when placed side by side on the supermarket shelf.

And among the Chinese, the crocodile is considered a lucky animal.

The brand name and the cartoon also help in brand recall, especially among children.

"We are introducing a new concept in insecticides because we feel that the market is looking for an alternative. We position ours as insecticides that are environment-friendly and very safe on humans. We also stress the fact that the products are odor-free," says Grovery executive vice president Johnny Jaotegan.

Sumithrin, an extract of the chrysanthemum flower, is the active ingredient of the Crocodile insecticides. It has been proven to be toxic on mosquitoes and cockroaches but not on mammals—which include humans and common pets like cats and dogs.

The formula is oil-based so evaporation is slower, thus, can kill household pests longer than water-based brands.

Jaotegan claims that Crocodile sprayed on favorite breeding grounds of household pests such as dark corners and damp places would be effective for as long as six weeks.

"Our product may not kill instantly, but ours can kill surely," he adds.

The Philippines' Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority under the Department of Agriculture approved the Crocodile formulation and has allowed it to print a green band around the cans, signifying the low level of toxicity of insecticide.

Spray cans with a blue band indicate a high level of toxicity, although still safe on humans.

Crocodile was formulated by the environmental health group of Japan's Sumitomo Chemicals, and has been found to be effective on other household pests such as ants, bed bugs, lice, dust mites, lice and even fleas on dogs and cats. It can also kill termites.

"We are proud to say that no other insecticide in the market can claim to kill termites, except us," Jaotegan adds.

Jaotegan, however, says it is not enough to just talk about the virtues of the Crocodile insecticide especially as the market has gotten used to the top leading brands, that corner close to 90 percent of the market combined.

The key, he says, is to prove that the product actually works better or at least just as well as the other brands without the strong smell.

"We have approached institutional users of

GETTING/ C2

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A simple guide to leasing in Makati

By Emmylou G. Patnugot
SGV & Co.

MAKATI CITY is the premiere business district of the country, thus, every little space within it is coveted. It follows that most of those who own real property enter into the lucrative business of leasing out their land or building, whether for commercial or residential purposes.

Conversely, a significant number of Makati residents have at one time or another become lessees.

If you wish to join those who maximize the use of their real property, it would be prudent to know the basic local laws and taxes involved in a lease transaction.

Primarily, Chapter III, Section 3A.02(k), Paragraph 2 of the Makati Revenue Code imposes a business tax on all lessors or sub-lessors of real estate including accessorias, apartels, pension inns, lodging houses, apartments, condominiums, houses for lease, rooms and spaces for rent, and similar places in the following schedule:

With gross sales or receipts for the preceding calendar year in the amount of	Amount of Tax per annum
Less than P 1,000	Exempt
P 1,000 to P 4,000	P 30.00
P 4,000 to P 10,000	P 120.00
P 10,000 to P 20,000	P 300.00
P 20,000 to P 30,000	P 600.00
P 30,000 to P 50,000	P 900.00
P 50,000 or more	P900 plus 50% of 1% for 1993, 60% of 1% for 1994 and 1995, 75% of 1% for 1996 and thereafter of the excess over P50,000.

However, to ensure that lessors and sub-lessors pay the lessor's tax, the Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Makati recently passed City Ordinance No. 2001-108 last Dec. 6, 2001.

The ordinance requires all owners or administrators of lands, houses, buildings within Makati City to submit to the Office of the Mayor a written declaration under oath whether their property is being rented or leased, together with a copy of the existing contract of lease/rent.

Section 2 specifically mandates that the declaration under oath shall be submitted within the first 20 days of January of the current year to the Office of the Mayor, together with a copy of the existing Contract of Lease, with copies furnished the Office of the Barangay Chairman where the property is located.

A Contract of Lease is subject to documentary stamp tax (DST) as provided in Section 194 of the 1997 Tax Code. To quote:

"Section 194. Stamp Tax on Leases and Other Hiring Agreements.—On each lease, agreement, memorandum, or contract for hire, use or rent of any lands or tenements, or portions thereof, there shall be collected a documentary stamp tax of P3 for the first P2,000, or fractional part thereof, and an additional P1 for every P1,000 or fractional part thereof, in excess of the first P2,000 for each year of the term of said contract or agreement."

Thus, it is mutually beneficial for parties to incorporate in their lease contract a provision as to who shall bear the cost of the DST.

Unless otherwise provided, the general rule is that the one making, signing, issuing, or transferring a right or obligation shall be liable.

In the case at hand, that would be the lessor.

To strictly enforce the implementation of the ordinance, Section 3 of the law requires all barangay chairmen to make an annual inventory of all leased/rented lands, houses or buildings within their respective barangays, based on all filed declarations.

In turn, their failure and/or refusal to submit an inventory as required in Section 3 shall, after notice and hearing, be cause for disciplinary action.

More importantly, Section 4 of Ordinance No. 2001-108 imposes penalties to lessors and sub-lessors who fail or refuse to comply with the ordinance amounting to P5,000 for every violation.

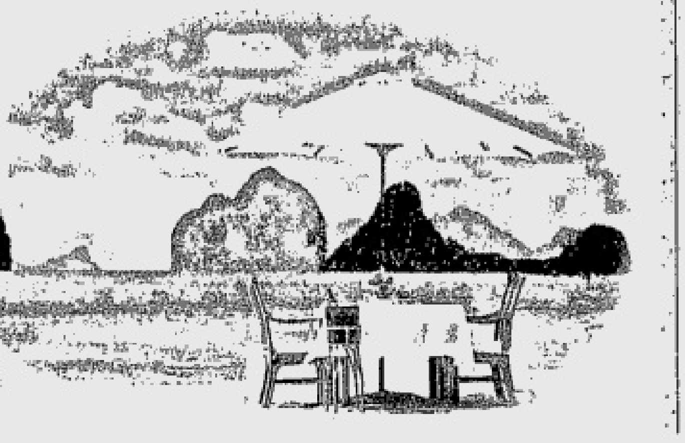
Getting . . .

From page C1

insecticides such as hotels to prove to them that our product works, that there is no smell and that it would leave no stain even if you spray it on the bed sheets. We are also going to the different schools to do the same product demonstrations," he adds.

He says the insect repellants are just the first of a long list of environment-friendly products that Grovery started selling to the market since last year.

These products include an alkaline-based declogging chemical that would not harm the pipes, fly repellants, household cleaner and non-acidic toilet bowl cleaner that would not discolor the enamel lining of the toilet bowl.



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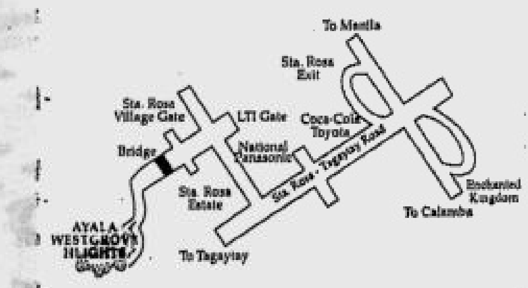

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Graduates serenade taipan in thanks

THREE scholars, Jerico Cristobal, Rhea Dermogena, and Reuben Regulacion, graduated with academic excellence rankings.

The program began with 100 scholars in 1993, and now has 400 scholars at any given time. Last year it helped 370 graduates.

Cum laude graduates Roselyn Togono and Shirley Abolente could not hold back their tears as they delivered their heartfelt thanks to SM and the taipan. Roselyn, a Computer Engineering graduate from the University of San Carlos in Cebu, tearfully recounted her family's hardships, and how she drew her strength from these. She added that being an SM scholar "taught her a lot of things in life."

Shirley, who graduated from a BS in Secondary Education degree from the Philippine Normal University, recalled how her father told her that while he couldn't give her any riches, education was of utmost importance. Having completed her degree with honors, she intends to in turn help her brothers and sisters finish their schooling.

The parents' testimonials were equally touching. Virgilia Reyes recounted how her husband lost his arm in an accident when daughter Debbie was in the fourth grade. "My daughter kept on asking how she could finish her studies since her father couldn't work anymore," she recalled. "I assured her that God would help us. And God was so good—He has given us the SM Foundation College Scholarship program."

Another parent, Avelino Nunag, couldn't fight back his tears as he said, "If it were not for Mr. Henry Sy Sr., I won't be here as well."

SM Investments Corp. CFO Jose Sio said that "a school is like a factory where it provides, develops, and enhances your skills and tools for you to meet the real world." He reminded the graduates to be hardworking, be the best in everything, and above all "be kind and helpful to those who are in need."

The graduate scholars were each given a personalized wristwatch engraved with their names and batch.

The scholars serenaded Henry Sy with their special rendition of the "Wind Beneath My Wings," and later presented him with a caricature and a thank you card.

SM Foundation's College Scholarship Program assists poor but deserving students who want to go to college.

SM founder and chair Henry Sy (center) with (left) SM Investment Corporation's chief finance officer Jose Sio, SM president Teresita Sy Coson, SM Foundation's Connie Angeles.

SM's Henry Sy with Board of Trustees Paulino Tan

Presentation of Gradua
2 2

New SM's College Graduates from East Asia College of Info Tech gives their benefactor Henry Sy a caricature as a token of his kindness and generosity.

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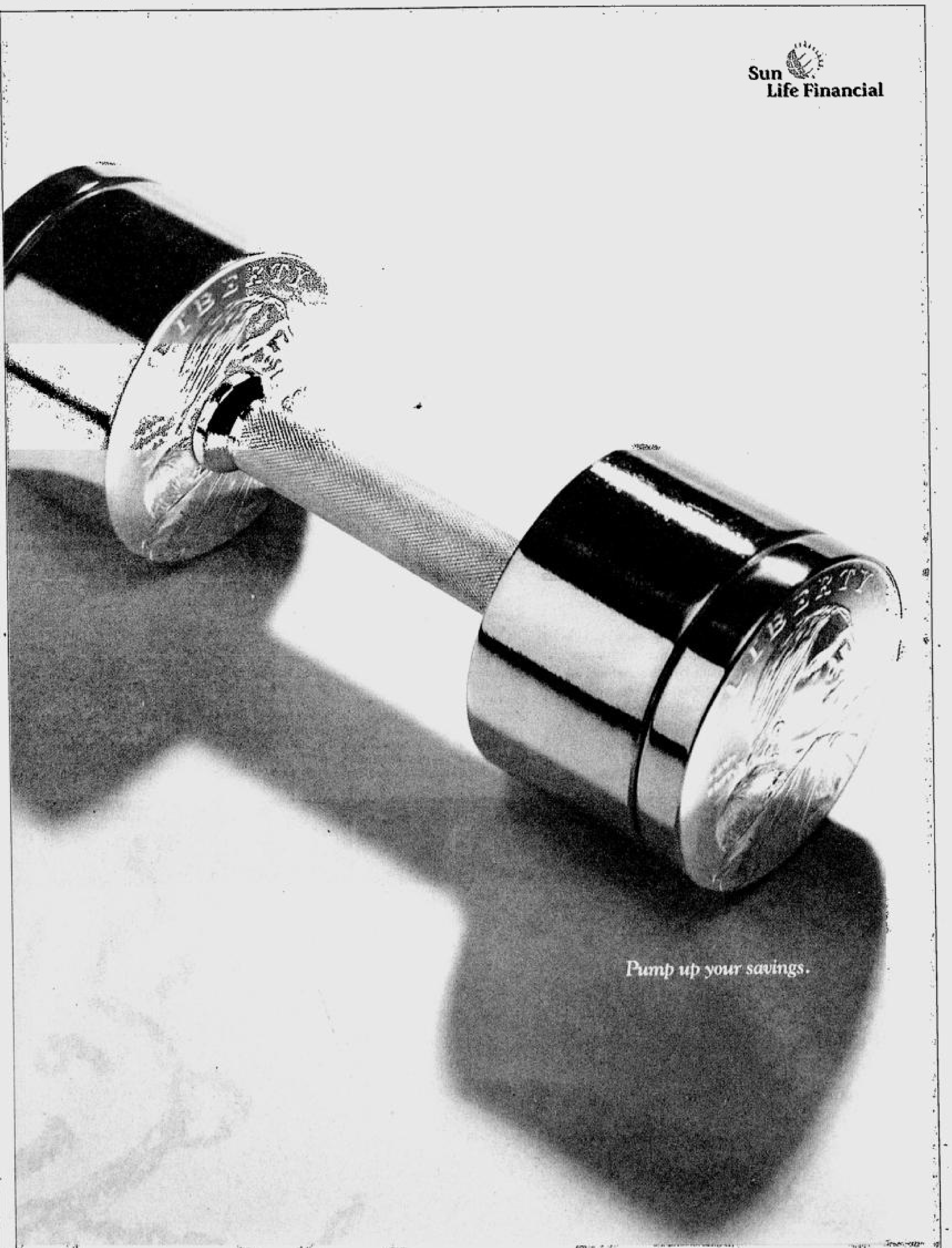

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Learning business ethics from the Dalai Lama

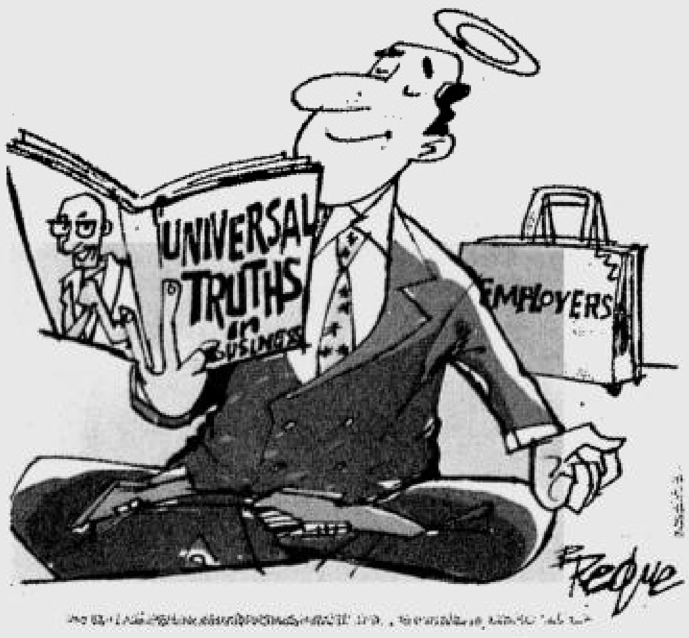
From page C1

principle tells us that an action is good if it produces the greatest good for the greatest number) and Kantianism (i.e., this principle tells us never to take any action that you would not be willing to see others faced with the same or a closely similar situation also be free to take).

Interestingly, though, virtue ethics as propagated in the teachings of His Holiness The Dalai Lama XIV have yet to be fully explored in these classes. Surprisingly, the teachings of Dalai Lama carry more explicit standards by which to judge behaviors in business and much can be learned from his espoused views and principles.

While Dalai Lama's spiritual practice is founded on the tenets of Buddhism, his teachings go beyond Buddhist religious dogma.

A 1989 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate awardee, with incredible commitment to non-violence and peaceful negotiation, the Dalai Lama XIV Tenzin Gyatso, is the acknowledged spiritual and temporal leader in exile by the Tibetan people for over 50 years now.



While in exile, he continues to negotiate for the peaceful resolution of Tibet's cause of preserving its historical and cultural heritage, in peaceful co-existence with China. Following are a few of the Dalai Lama's espoused virtues, which he calls "universal truths," that can find ground in business.

Ethic of Compassion. One of Dalai Lama's espoused universal truth is the ethic of compassion which means acting out of concern for others. With concern for others comes peace in one's heart, peace to the family, to the workplace, community at large and everyone an individual associates with.

Today's business environment is literally rocked with layoffs, downsizing and significant job cuts resulting from mergers, restructuring and inevitably the economic downturn. While the outcome of any dismissal remains the same which include unavoidable shock and humiliation not to mention financial worries and emotional strain, employers can cushion this aftermath by manifesting the ethic of compassion and concern for their employees.

Organizations can implement human resource policies and systems that soften the blow for affected workers. One key development in human resources management is the setup of outplacement counseling services which do not only assist job seekers who have been referred by former employers but is largely more concerned with outplacement counseling that aims to boost displaced workers' confidence, provide training for basic job search skills (after all, a typical executive may have been with a company for 20 years and may have archaic job hunting skills), hold interview practice sessions, networking workshops and career evaluation which may even lead to discovery of the displaced worker's entrepreneurial or self-employment skills. While severance packages come in handy, the extra mile established by human resource mechanisms that respect the dignity of workers and exhibit concern for employees go a long way toward establishing a positive feeling and peace pipe with a former employer.

Ethic of universal responsibility. A sense of responsibility toward others means that we are duty bound to care for other members of society. This means that we should not turn away those who are disadvantaged, marginalized and grievously afflicted.

On Feb. 2, 1998, Cebu Pacific Air Flight 387 slammed onto the mountainside of Mt. Sumagaya killing all 104 passengers. Immediately, search and rescue efforts were mounted. Likewise, half of the entire staff volunteered to be temporarily stationed in Southern Cagayan de Oro where the plane went down to comfort the victims' families and assist in the search. Further, management did its best to ease the family's strain and burden. In their darkest hours of waiting for body bags and body parts, each family was assigned a Cebu Pacific employee as "human crutch" to attend to their every need. There were no lengthy appeals for settlement. Everything was speedily arranged including insurance and free air travel to visit the dead every Feb. 2 and Nov. 1. In the end, not one of the victim's families sued the airline nor the aircraft manufacturer.

In contrast, the surviving families of crash victims of Air Philippines Flight 541 in Davao City were faced with the indifferent attitude of Air Philippines management. Unlike Cebu Pacific, Air Philippines did not provide free tickets to the relatives and is facing legal action from the victims' relatives. It comes as no surprise therefore, when families of the victims of Cebu Air Flight 387 acknowledge that the airline's display of responsibility over them has tremendously helped them overcome their loss, go on with their lives and even form a unique and lasting bond among the crash victims' families and airline firm.

Ethic of restraint. Patient forbearance or the ability to put in check negative thoughts and emotions which can lead to conduct that becomes ethically wholesome.

In April of this year, Procter & Gamble Co. and Unilever surprisingly devoid of any bitter dispute, went into a peaceful settlement of reparations for P&G's corporate espionage activities of Unilever's hair care business.

This says much about the professionalism and wholesome ethical conduct of both organizations which manifested much restraint. In contrast, the public finger-pointing between Ford Motor Co. and Firestone, a unit of Japan's Bridgestone Corp. severed the 100-year relationship between Ford and Firestone and did little to advance the argument of both companies in determining who should assume fault for the Explorer rollovers.

Ethics in society. Dalai Lama stresses the important universal truth of how the media have become a powerful force in shaping society's ethical conduct. This therefore confers a great responsibility on all who work in media. But it also puts responsibility on the individual who listens, reads and watches. After all, the control switch is in the hands of the audience.

This does not mean that violent images have absolutely no place in society. On the contrary, an ethically wholesome effect can still be achieved even while watching a film with violence if the viewers' compassion is triggered by the images. These images then would have served a purpose and can even be justified. But if the violent images lead to indifference then it can only most naturally result to the ultimate danger of hardening of heart and lack of empathy. When media close in on the negative aspects of human nature, there is great danger that violence and aggression become justified in the minds of society which brings me to the irony of how media, a most powerful tool that can serve as a catalyst for positive transformation can do otherwise.

Notice how media producers can sometimes compromise values for profit even in the most basic form of entertaining game shows like "The Weakest Link" which can only bring out the darkest side of the show's participants. In a bid to raise the group's pot, the contenders enthusiastically support each other until in a seemingly malicious twist the rest of the contenders willfully connive and vote to eliminate the most knowledgeable in the group, sadly also the highest contributor to the group's pot, because he also happens to be the biggest threat to the prize money. It also does not help that the show's host must project a personality of utmost coldness and indifference.

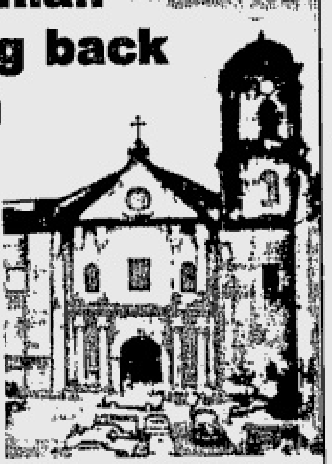
As my 9-year-old son succinctly put it, "it's a brutally entertaining show." Which begs the question, it may be entertaining but is it ethically wholesome?

Ultimately, Dalai Lama's principle for ethical conduct boils down to a "good heart" where one leads an ethical life of responsibility and compassion for others. A good heart means having the heart of one who acts out of a desire to help others.

Love for others and respect for their rights and dignity, no matter who or what they are is, after all, the only thing one needs in a life of responsible ethical conduct.

(The author is a professor at the Graduate School of Business of the De La Salle Professional Schools Inc. and is concurrently Director of Marketing at Asian Hospital and Medical Center.)

The Augustinian Fathers bring back old tradition



If you visit the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila, you cannot help but notice the tombstones that are lined along the church's main entrance. What makes it even more interesting is the fact that the tombstones bear prominent names of the members of high society. You will even be amazed to see that these tombstones date back as far as the early 1800s.

During the Spanish period, the Augustinian fathers allowed the burying of bodies within the church premises which is considered the highest honor one can give a departed member of the family. Indeed, the fact that the remains are inside the church gives the feeling that the departed loved one is within a spiritual haven.

In those days, only the wealthy and prominent can give their dead this dignified burial.This privilege is accorded to the family in exchange for a hefty donation, e.g. a golden crown for one of the saints or an altar in the church, etc.

Among the prominent names seen on these tombstones are Roxas, Garcia, Arenas, etc. One of the wings of the San Agustin church even serves as a mausoleum for the Ayalas, Zobels and Sorianos.

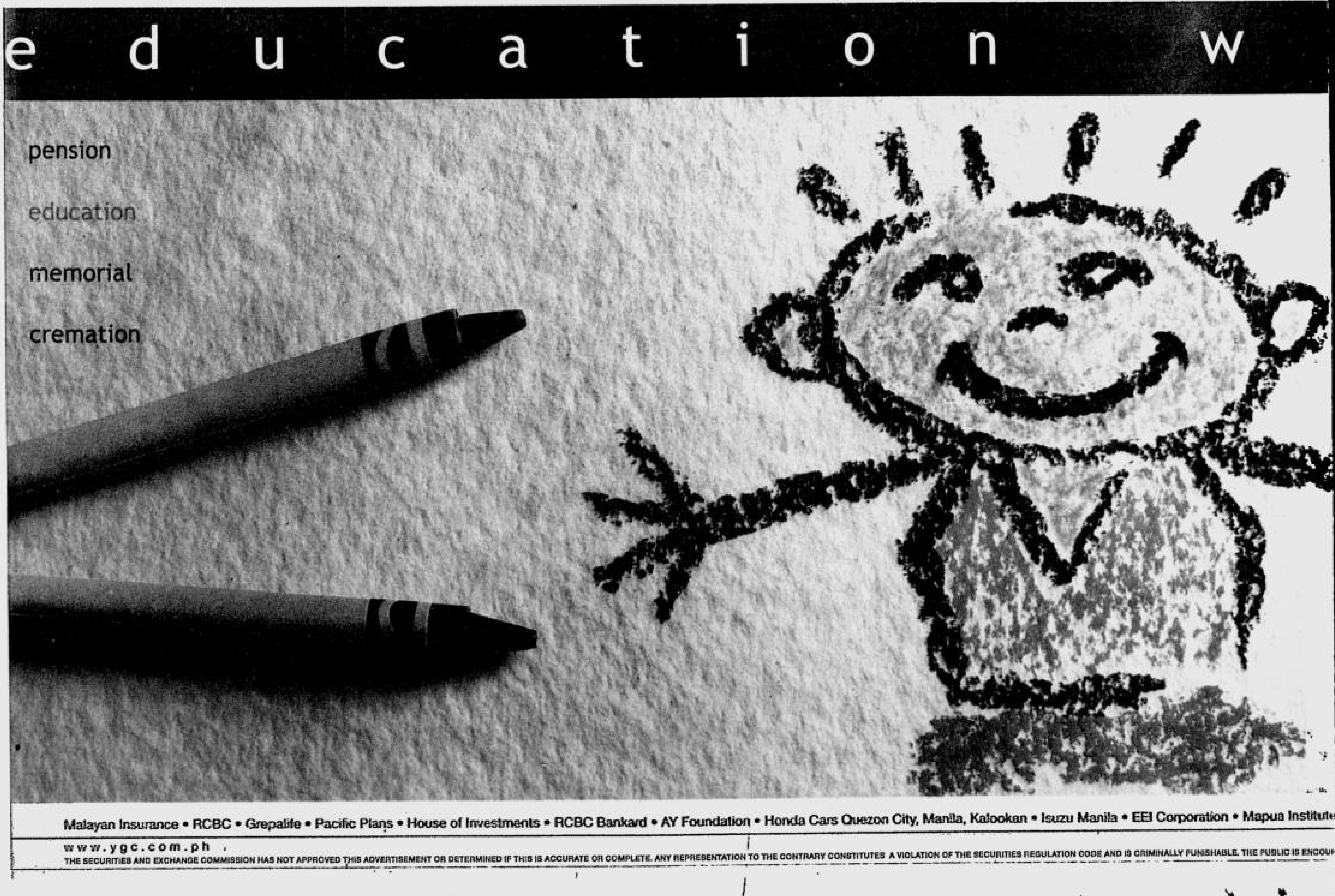
Another distinct resident of the San Agustin Church is the great Filipino painter Juan Luna known for his masterpiece The Spoliarium, which won in the Paris Exposition in the late 1800s.

Today, the Augustinian fathers bring back to life this honorable tradition of burying the dead within the church premises with the establishment of The Columbary.

Located in the heart of Quezon City, along Visayas Ave., The Columbary stands as a sanctuary where one can honor a departed loved one. The Columbary is a spiritual haven that will serve as a depository of the ash of the cremated body. It is housed within the compound of the San Agustin Seminary and it stands within the Chapel of the Santo Nino de Cebu. A lush garden surrounds the columbary vaults making it a very tranquil monument for a dearly departed loved one.

But unlike in the olden days, one will not have to make a hefty donation like a golden crown for a saint to honor a dearly departed. For as low as P2,687.00 downpayment, one can own a columbary vault.

To know more about this new Augustinian establishment, visit The Columbary at Fisheries St., Visayas Avenue Quezon City. You can also call 425-15-09; 753-25-32; 753-25-33 for more information.



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Meat-packing trend could leave butchers in the cold

CHICAGO—In the supermarket of the not-so-distant future, the shopper who goes looking for the butcher in the back of the store may find a florist, a rack of greeting cards or a cash machine instead.

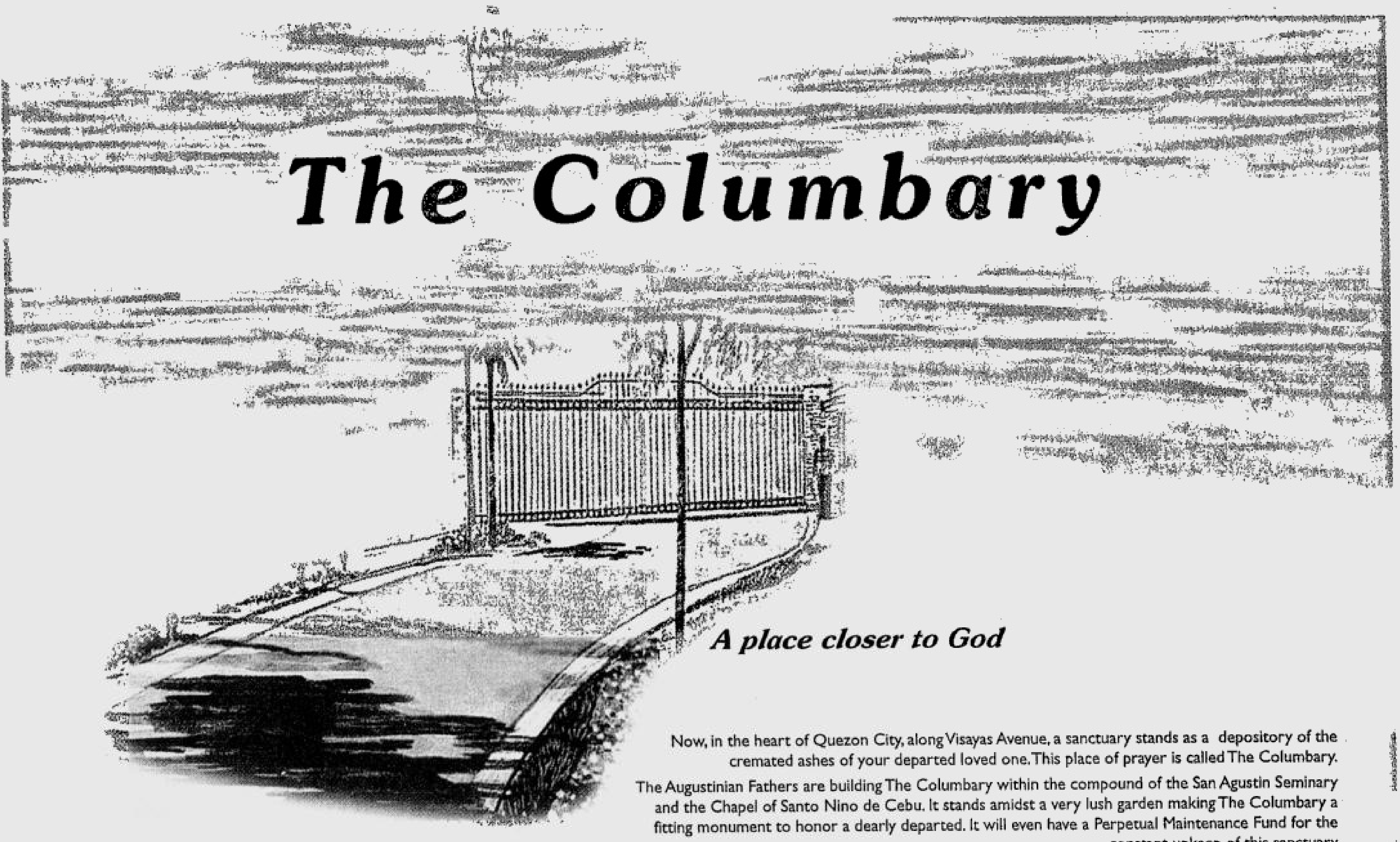
The major players in the $80 billion US red-meat packing and processing business are pushing into "case-ready" meat products that come to the store prepackaged for retail sale.

In the traditional supermarket meat department, large chunks of beef and pork have to be ground or sliced into steaks, chops and roasts, then wrapped, weighed, priced and labeled.

"You've got a little miniature production shop in the back room of each store," said Huston Keith of Keymark Associates, a market research and development company

MEAT-PACKING/ C7

The Columbary



A place closer to God

Now, in the heart of Quezon City, along Visayas Avenue, a sanctuary stands as a depository of the cremated ashes of your departed loved one. This place of prayer is called The Columbary.

The Augustinian Fathers are building The Columbary within the compound of the San Agustin Seminary and the Chapel of Santo Nino de Cebu. It stands amidst a very lush garden making The Columbary a fitting monument to honor a dearly departed. It will even have a Perpetual Maintenance Fund for the constant upkeep of this sanctuary

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Dumaguete gears up for increased business

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Despite the dismal projection on the future of the business in the country this year, this city looks forward to better business opportunities. Small and medium enterprises are now also beginning to sprout in the city's commercial district.

Records of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) in the city also indicated that from January to April this year, some 409 small and medium business ventures have opened.

The Chowking opened its Dumaguete branch at Perdices Street on Thursday while the Shakeys Pizza located at Rizal Boulevard has been enjoying good business after it opened two weeks ago.

"Dumaguete is now ripe for the kind of business we are having," said Samuel Paduit, Chowking area manager for the Visayas.

Paduit said his company is very optimistic on the market potential of Dumaguete, as shown by the result of their study.

Cara Ponce de Leon, operation manager of Shakeys, said the pizza firm is now doing well. In fact, she said during the opening of their establishment, they posted high sales.

Chowking has hired some 36 personnel, while Shakeys got the services of 40 persons.

Jose Senador, of the taxpayers services section of the BIR here, said tax collection from January to April overshot their collection target. He said that for the first four months of the year, the BIR collected some P188.9 million, compared to the P152.9-million collection target.

The January-April collection was also higher when compared to the same period last year where only P132.3 million was realized in taxes.

"Our tax collection from January to April is an indication that the business is good because the businessmen have money to pay their taxes," Senador said.

Javier Fortunato, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) provincial director, also said the coming of Shakeys and Chowking showed that the market is good.

He however, said that the business climate in the city might greatly improve if other business concerns can be properly addressed.

Citing a study conducted by the Asian Institute of Management a few weeks ago, Fortunato said the city got a very high score in human resource, but got low in other criteria such as the "dynamism" of local officials and the perspective of local businessmen.

However, some business leaders here are now optimistic of the local business prospect.

Francel Martinez, vice president of the Negros Oriental Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the presence of Shakeys and Chowking branches in the city indicated that the people have money to dine out.

Peter Chuang, president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, also said that the business in the city is already starting to experience a construction boom because supply of cement is running out.

But Alex Sy, president of the United Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce in the city, Dumaguete still has a long way to go before a real business boom could take place.

New pizza commercial touches on the surreal

AMERICANA but still very Pinoy.

That's what impressed people most about the latest TV commercial of Pizza Hut for its new pizza, the New American Classic.

Entitled "Seattle," the 30-second spot opens in what seems to be a suburban neighborhood in the United States with a family of four going about their business on a typical non-working day.

Shot in slow motion, the almost languid scene is jarred by the arrival of a Pizza Hut delivery rider in the person of "The Hunks" member Diether Ocampo. Confused by his surroundings and wondering whether he got the right address, Diether nevertheless says *"Tao po"* without any second thought. The American family greets him and in a characteristic fashion, invites him to their home to have some pizza. Diether is amazed at the warm and friendly reception but is totally bewildered when the American dad after taking a bite from the pizza says, *"Di ba kayo malulugi dito?"*

Robbie Dinglasan, the TV commercial's director, describes it as "idyllic yet warped" and that's exactly why he accepted the job in the first place.

"I like the story board and the way it spoofed American ads with the slow motion style, the sprinklers and the waving American flag in the background. Then suddenly you bring in Diether Ocampo in the most obtrusive way possible, looking lost because you know he is thinking it's not possible that he is still in Manila. It's surreal, actually," he says with a chuckle.

And very Pinoy. Pizza Hut with its fun sense of humor wanted viewers to really think this was shot in the United States, only to be jolted from their comfortable reverie by the arrival of Diether. Dinglasan obviously had fun with that but evoking the American atmosphere and spirit involved some logistic difficulties.

THE CAST of the TV commercial get some "how to eat a pizza" pointers.

"The thing is you really cannot fake or approximate American panorama," Dinglasan points out. "It is just different the way it looks there to the way it looks here. So what we did was we got some familiar icons that one can find in the United States," he adds.

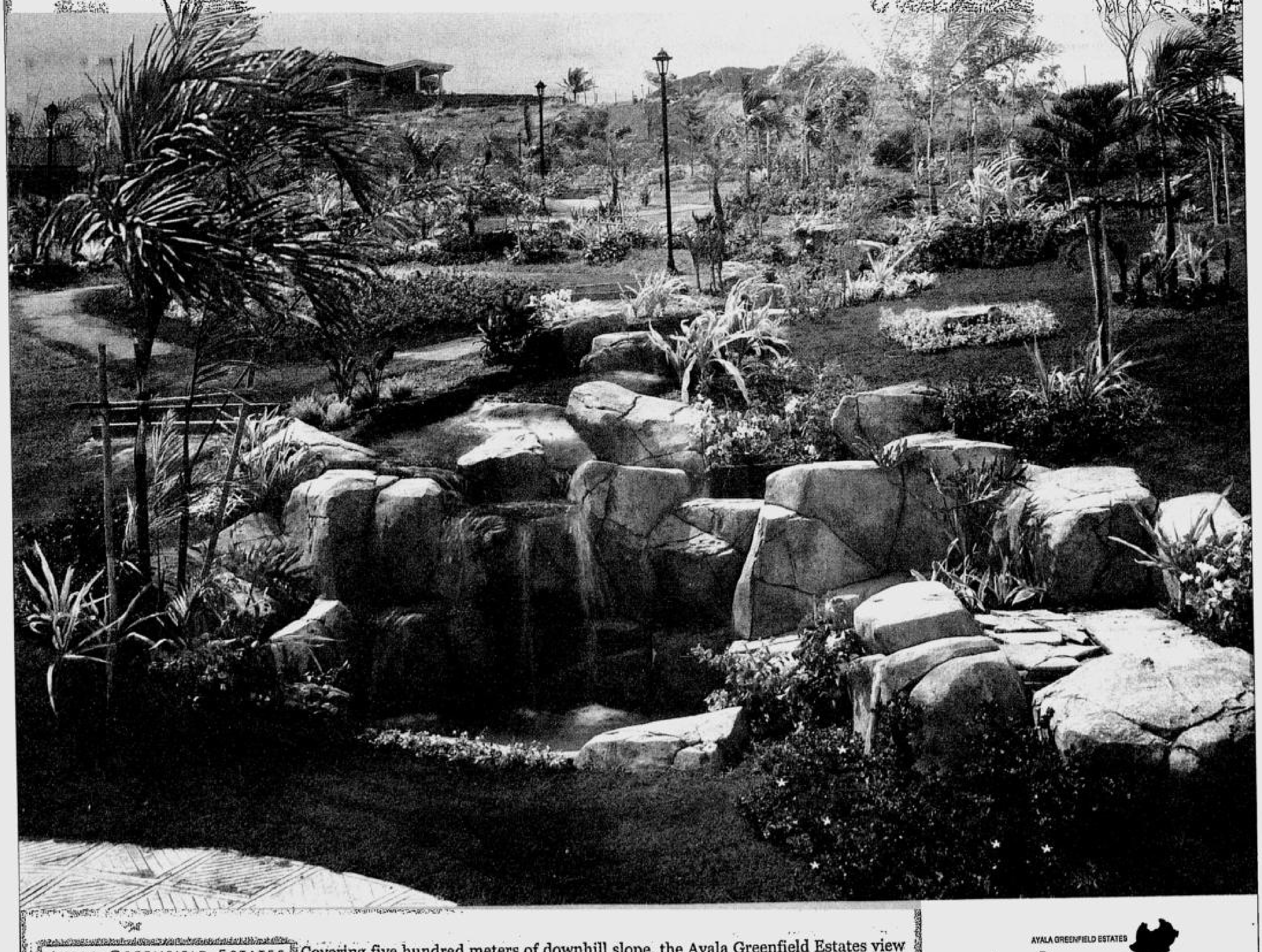
To call to mind Midwest USA, Dinglasan and his production design crew looked for a house with a porch, a big manicured lawn and a mailbox out on the front, a weather vane and of course, white picket fences. They were lucky enough to find one that suited their needs.

No picket fences around here when any Filipino knows it won't do as a barrier of protection from burglars. "The house you see in the commercial does have a porch and a lawn but the other stuff like the mailbox and the picket fences, we had to add that."

Aside from the location, the lighting was another crucial element in the commercial and one that Dinglasan could not really control.

"We are near the equator so the sun hits us at 90 degrees. Unlike in the Southern hemisphere, the sun does not hit it directly so the light there is softer. So it's almost impossible to have that here," Dinglasan explains. "What we did was to shoot either early in the morning or toward sunset. Literally, we were running after time, a few hours in the morning and few hours in the afternoon."

Gardens at the foothills of Mt. Makiling, designed by Sanders.
The Ayala Greenfield Estates View Corridor.



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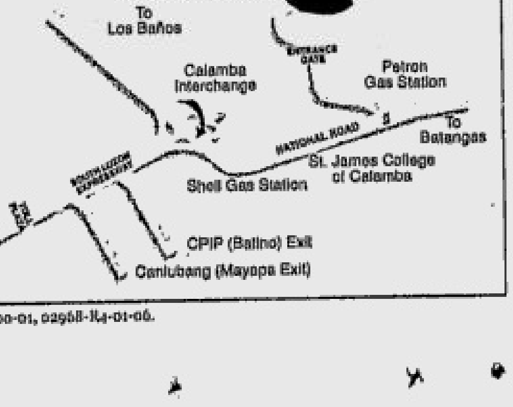

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Grand Clio winner is 'ordinary' sale ad

By Roger Pe
Contributor

HAVE you been to a midnight madness sale lately? How does it feel to rummage through piles of designer things you've been itching to buy? Did you get yourself stepped on, elbowed, kicked, bodily pushed and shoved? Did you get home in one piece? Lucky you if you even managed to get the stuff.

Instead of just announcing that it was having a sale, Harvey Nichols, a famous British retail chain, did something out of the ordinary.

They threw the usual "big-letter-sale" word out of the window and pictured what their shoppers have to go through just to get in to their store. The result was fantastic. Everyone was talking about the sale. The store naturally cleaned up all its inventories and shoppers were clamoring for more. Who could also be yelling for more but the Clio judges themselves?

The Harvey Nichols print series titled "Neck," "Stomach" and "Ankle" shown on this page, was for its winter sale last year. It was created by BMP DDB, Britain's most awarded ad agency.

The Clio Awards, the Oscars of worldwide advertising and the world's most prestigious, celebrated its 43rd year at the Grand Ballroom of Loews Hotel in Miami, Florida, last May 21-24, 2002 by awarding a total of 281 statues, up from last year's 272.

The United States led the pack with 105, followed by England with 24, Germany with 23, Brazil led the Latin American countries with 18, and Singapore took the cudgels for Asia with 17.

Two Philippine ad agencies broke the country's previous Clio record. BBDO-Guerrero bagged two silvers and one bronze for its multi-awarded Visa "Dining Out" television commercial.

Its Adidas "Fence" print ad was also a finalist failing to metal just by a point. Ogilvy & Mather rebounded with a silver for its Mandarin Hotel key cards for The Economist.

It was also the second time that a Filipino was invited to judge in the Clio—David Guerrero, who also won two golds for his regional work for BBDO Thailand (Fed Ex "Box"), the same ad which won for him a Cannes Gold Lion.

DDB Chicago also pocketed a Grand Clio for its Bud Light radio campaign—"Mr. Supermarket Free Sample Guy," "Mr. Horsedrawn Carriage Driver" and "Mr. Camouflage Suit Maker," pushing its mother company DDB to the Agency Network of the Year plum.

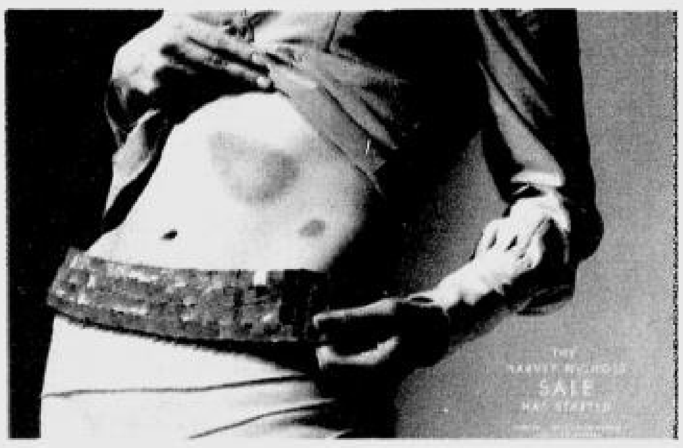
The offices of DDB Worldwide amassed a total of one Hall of Fame Award, two Grand Clios, five golds, five silvers and 18 bronzes to win the Agency Network of the Year. BBDO was second and Saatchi & Saathi, third.

With two Grand Clios for BMW, Fallon of Minneapolis, USA, won as Agency of the Year. DDB Chicago was first runner-up and Ogilvy & Mather Singapore took second runner-up honors, a first for Asia.

Marcello Serpa, Clio chair of judges, inducted two commercials into the Clio Hall of Fame—the original Energizer Bunny campaign made by Dick Sittig and "5 a.m. Mono Village," one of the original spots in the long-running Diesel campaign made by Paradiset DDB of Stockholm, Sweden.

THE HARVEY NICHOLS SALE HAS STARTED

THE HARVEY NICHOLS SALE HAS STARTED
Chloé


THE HARVEY NICHOLS SALE HAS STARTED

THE AWARD-WINNING "Ankle" (top), "Neck" (right) and "Stomach" ads.

Meat-packing . . .

From page C5

that has studied the case-ready trend.

When that work is done at the slaughterhouse instead, retailers stand to save both space and labor costs.

"All that labor in the back really adds very little value," Joel Johnson, chief executive of meatpacker Hormel Foods Corp., told an investment conference this month.

"Butchers are high-paid and they're hard to find," he said. "It's very hard for a retailer who is building new stores or going through a massive renovation program to justify the amount of space that's historically been allocated in the back of the supermarket to stainless steel tables, saws and knives."

Keith estimated that case-ready meats now account for about 15 percent of the market, a share that should rise to 30 percent within five years.

Following Wal-Mart's lead

"The market for case-ready meats should improve as supermarkets seek to save money on in-store meat cutting," Joseph Luter, chief executive of Smithfield Foods Inc., the nation's largest pork producer, told the same investment conference.

"The one big reason is Wal-Mart has embraced it enthusiastically," Luter said. "The stores they are building are going 100 percent case-ready. We expect other people will follow."

Tom Williams, a spokesman for Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, confirmed that virtually all the company's supercenters—discount stores with full grocery departments—now sell only case-ready meat.

"It gives us good quality control because the product leaves the inspected plant in a sealed package that isn't opened until the customer takes it home," Williams said. "We like the cleanliness aspect, and the tamper-evident packaging gives confidence to the consumer."

Case-ready meats may also appeal to consumers who shop at odd hours, said Gary Rhodes, a spokesman for Kroger Co., the nation's No. 1 supermarket chain.

"Having case-ready meat ensures that the meat case is always fully stocked," he said. "In the middle of the night there wouldn't be a meat cutter working."

With some products, meat-packers do much of the cooking before the package gets to the store. For a roast, 10 minutes in the microwave can take the place of four hours in the oven.

"Fewer and fewer people, especially working women, are cooking from scratch," said Gene Grabowski of the Grocery Manufacturers of America. "The butcher is preparing a raw material that you have to take home and do a lot of work with."

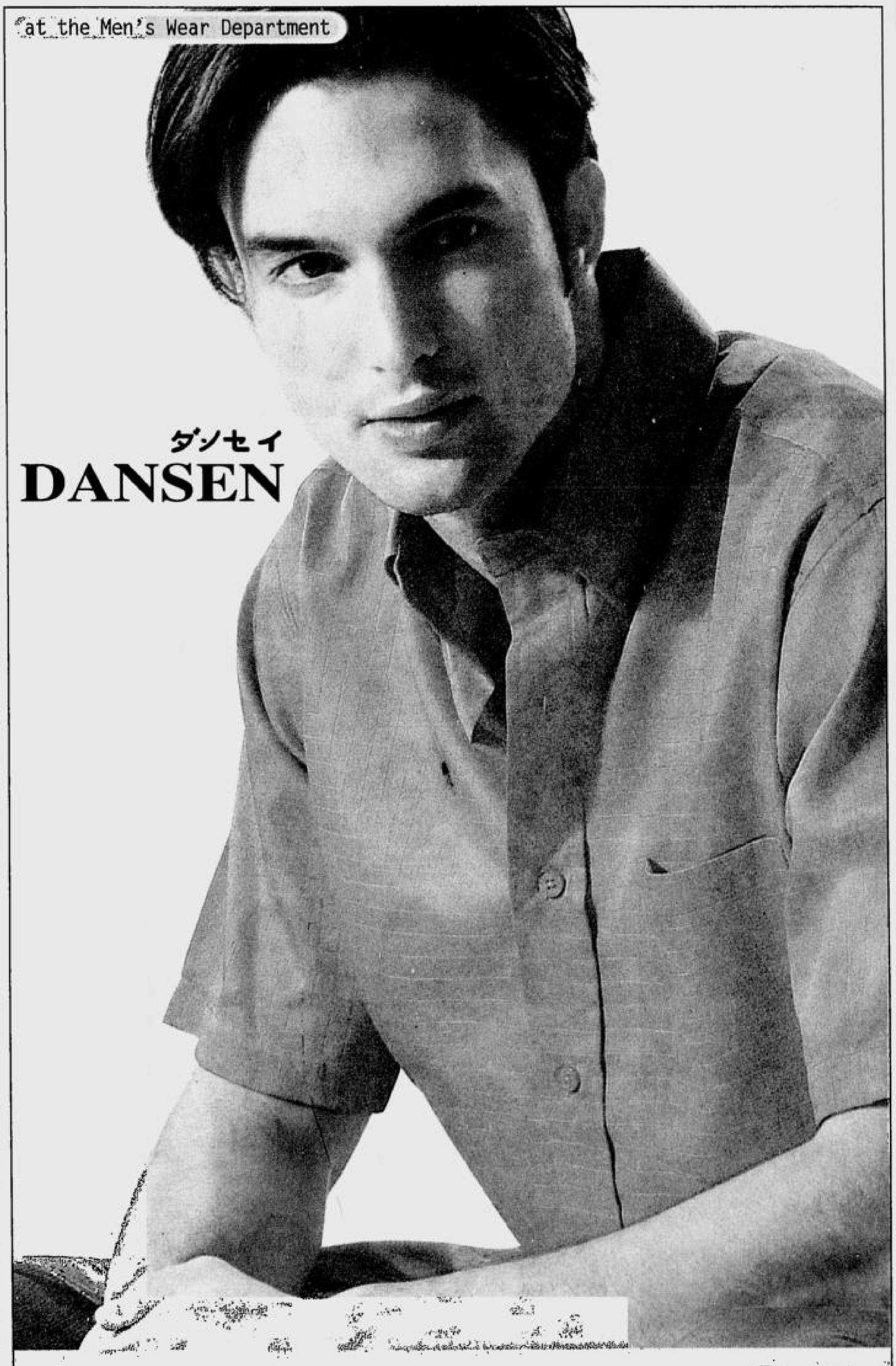
Keeping a competitive edge

Despite the steady advance of case-ready products, however, talk of the butcher's imminent demise may be premature. Greg Denier, a spokesman for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, whose members include meat cutters, said supermarket chains may see a competitive advantage in keeping a butcher at the store.

"They have to distinguish themselves from discounters," Denier said. "If you're going to run a full-service supermarket, your customer base expects to be able to get custom-cut meat, and you ignore that customer base at your peril."

A recent study of consumer attitudes issued by the Food Marketing Institute, a grocery trade group, found that most supermarket shoppers still want to find a butcher on duty.

"The vast majority of shoppers (83 percent) say a fresh meat department with a butcher is very or somewhat important, and half (51 percent) claim this is a very important feature," the survey said. Retailers have to be aware of consumer sensitivities, Keith said. "Consumers still in their heart of hearts want to believe that you're leading cows into the back of the store and butchering them right there," he said. *Reuters*


at the Men's Wear Department
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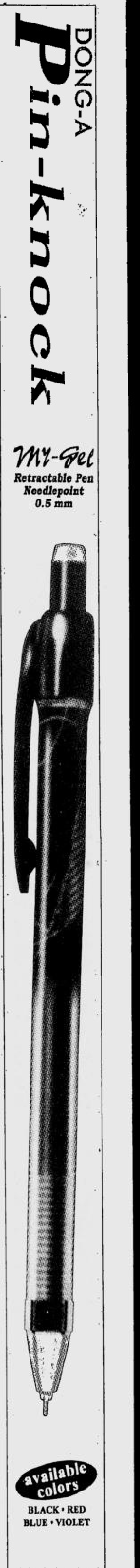

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Congratulations to the 2002 Graduates of the SM College Scholarship Program

Established in 1983, the SM Foundation Inc. supports a number of causes, and its primary focus has been the education of the underprivileged. The Scholarship Program maintains 400 college scholars in various educational institutions at any one time. And each year the number of its new graduates continues to grow.

New SM's College Graduates from East Asia College of Info Tech gives their benefactor Henry Sy a caricature as a token of his kindness and generosity.

Magna Cum Laude

CAYME, EDBRYAN T.
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Cum Laude

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BS in Elementary Education
Philippine Normal University

ARBOLLENTE, SHIRLEY G.
BS in Secondary Education
Major in Mathematics
Philippine Normal University

CARTAGENA, HAROLD F.
BS in Secondary Education
Major in Mathematics
West Visayas State University (Iloilo)

ENCORPORADO, ELIZABETH C.
BS in Secondary Education
Major in Mathematics
University of Sn Jose Recoletos (Cebu)

FARILLON, SYBEL JOY B.
BS in Elementary Education
West Visayas State University (Iloilo)

REYES, DEBBIE Q.
BS in Electronics & Comm Eng'g
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

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BS in Computer Eng'g
University of San Carlos (Cebu)

TORREFRANCA, JENNIFER R.
BS in Elementary Education
Philippine Normal University

Academic Excellence

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BS in Electronics & Comm Eng'g
University of the East (Caloocan)

DELA ROSA, ANNA A.
BS in Computer & Information Science
Major in Systems & Software Eng'g
East Asia College of Info Tech

DEMOGENA, RHEA F.
BS in Computer Eng'g
East Asia College of Info Tech

REGULACION, REUBEN E.
BS in Electronics & Comm Eng'g
University of the East (Caloocan)

people helping people

SM Foundation

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Major in Mathematics
St. Rita College

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BS in Computer Eng'g
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

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University of the East (Caloocan)

BERCILLA, ROMA JOY B.
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East Asia College of Info Tech

BERSALES, VENUS B.
BS in Secondary Education
Major in Mathematics
Philippine Normal University

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Philippine Normal University

CRISOSTOMO, MARIA CYRILLE L.
BS in Secondary Education
Major in Science & Biology
St. Joseph College (Cavite)

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BS in Electronics & Comm Eng'g
Technological University of the Philippines

DE OCAMPO, REYLOZEL B.
BS in Computer & Information Science
Major in Systems & Software Eng'g
East Asia College of Info Tech

DELA CRUZ, ROMMEL G.
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East Asia College of Info Tech

DELA ISLA, MAY ANN P.
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DOLORMENTE, MARILYN C.
BS in Computer Eng'g
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

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Major in Mathematics
New Era University

DULCE, CARINA M.
BS in Secondary Education
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St. Joseph College (Cavite)

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BS in Computer & Information Science
Major in System & Software Eng'g
East Asia College of Info Tech

EVANGELISTA, MARY GRACE S.
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East Asia College of Info Tech

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BS in Computer & Information Science
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Western Institute of Technology (Iloilo)

RAMOS, JULIE B.
BS in Electronics & Comm Eng'g
Western Visayas College of Science
& Technology (Iloilo)

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Mapua Institute of Technology

ROSALDO, SUZETTE D.
BS in Elementary Education
Philippine Normal University

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SAMSON, GINALYN M.
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Major in Mathematics
St. Rita College

SAN BUENAVENTURA, JOYELL S.
BS in Secondary Education
Major in Mathematics
St. Rita College

SANTIAGO, MARICEL E.
BS in Secondary Education
Major in Mathematics
St. Joseph College (Cavite)

SAWAT, MITOS L.
BS in Computer & Information Science
Major in Systems & Software Eng'g
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SEGOVIA, REGIN B.
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SEGUNDERA, KHAREN F.
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SILVA, ANGELO J.
BS in Electronics & Comm Eng'g
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

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Technological Institute of the Philippines

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Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

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VIDO, CHERRY LYNN B.
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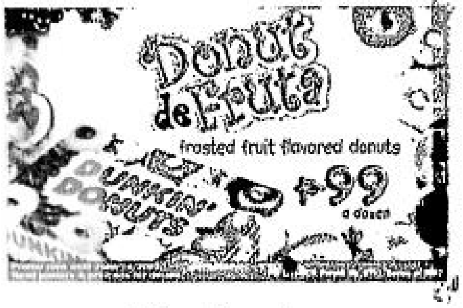
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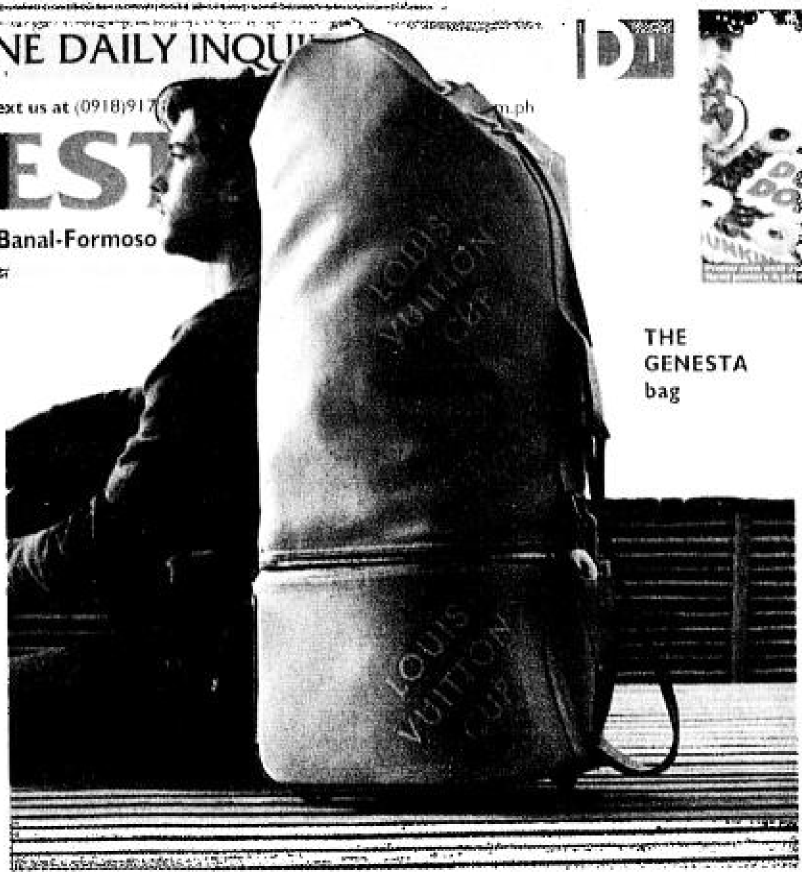
The sailing life

By Jules Alcantara
Contributor


THE GENESTA bag

> The Louis Vuitton Cup competitions are a good excuse for coming out with a sports wear line in the tradition of the revered fashion house

THE LOUIS Vuitton Cup must be won before the America's Cup can be conquered."

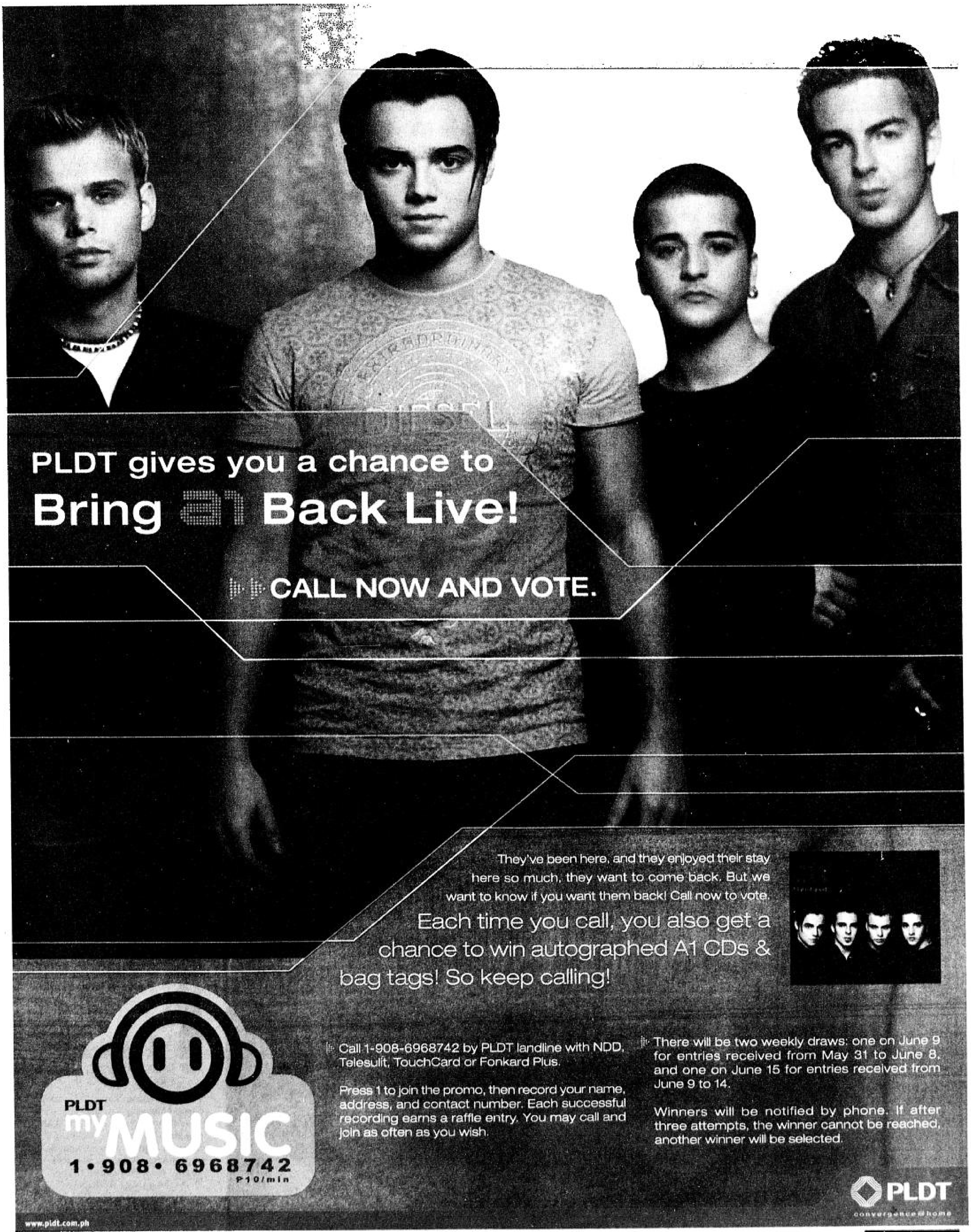
With this declaration, the sixth edition of one of the most prestigious and most fashionable yachting events of the year, the Louis Vuitton Cup, was formally presented to the media.

To complement this year's sailing competition, Louis Vuitton created a special collection of sportswear geared toward reflecting "the modern, the traditional, the technical and the elegant." And why not? The LV Cup and the America's Cup represent a fusion of sports and elegance.

Leather goods

One cannot help but rave at the new line of leather goods that uses Damier material. For those with a keen eye for detail, the Damier motif made an appearance in the Men's FW Runway show on one of the leather works designed by Marc Jacobs. Reworked with added innovations, the Damier pattern highlights the sporting spirit of the event. The Genesta, the official travel bag of the event,

THE SAILING/ p.D6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There will be two weekly draws: one on June 9 for entries received from May 31 to June 8, and one on June 15 for entries received from June 9 to 14.

Winners will be notified by phone. If after three attempts, the winner cannot be reached, another winner will be selected.

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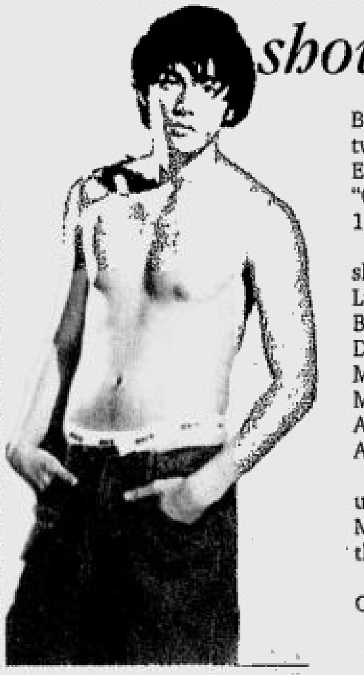
Underwear and denim show at Araneta



ON FRANCIS RICAFORT: Bench overhauled super loose with back yoke pockets pants and ribbed with repeated Bench logo on waistband underwear.

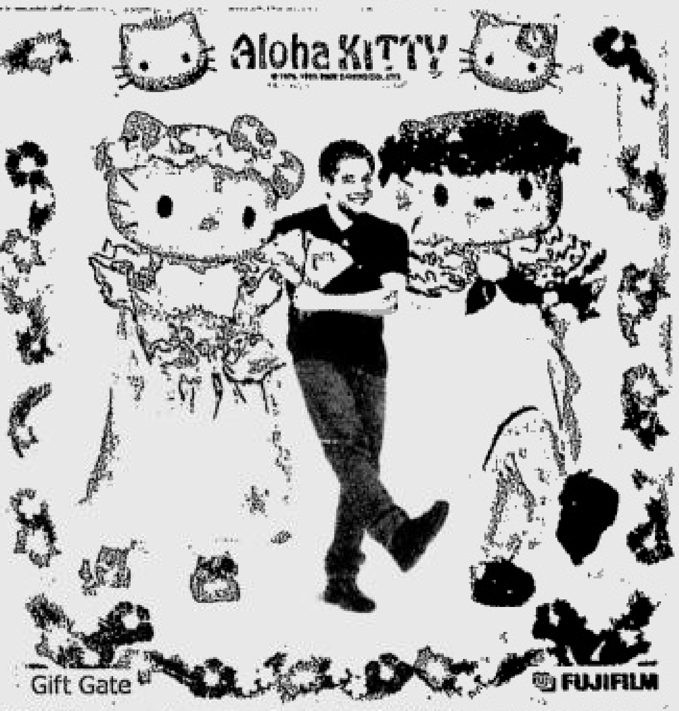
BENCH will hold a compendium of its two big fashion shows—the "Brief Encounters" underwear show and the "Overhauled" denim show—on June 14, 7 p.m., at the Araneta Coliseum.

To be directed by Ariel Lozada, the show will feature Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Jomari Yllana, Borgy Manotoc, John Estrada, Diether Ocampo, Wendell Ramos, Marc Nelson, Robbie Mananquil, Mickey Randall, Antonio Aquitana, Assunta de Rossi, Aya Medel and Amanda Griffin.

Purchasers of Bench and Herbench underwear and Overhauled denim in Metro Manila can get an invitation to the show.

The show will also be mounted at Cebu's Waterfront Hotel on July 6.

ON DIETHER OCAMPO: Bench overhauled denim relaxed fit (J2) with stitchings on the knee cap and ribbed with Bench logo on waistband underwear



LIKE Martin, get a souvenir photo with Aloha Kitty and Dear Daniel. Gift Gate Inc., Make-a-Wish Foundation's first corporate partner, launches this tie-up with the Aloha Kitty Gift Bouquets. Proceeds of sales from this goes toward making wishes of kids with life-threatening diseases come true.

A Kitty to catch

DRESS up in your best Hello Kitty and Dear Daniel outfits and get a free picture from Fuji Films with Aloha Kitty and Dear Daniel when you watch the last day of the "Aloha Kitty Character Live Show" on June 2, 3 p.m., at SM Megamall. Your picture will be mailed right to your home for free and comes with its own Aloha Kitty-inspired picture frame. As an additional bonus for all Gift Gate Privilege Card members, come before 2:30 p.m. and avail of the reserved sitting area exclusively for cardholders.

You can also catch Aloha Kitty and Dear Daniel on June 2, 5:30 p.m., at Gift Gate SM Megamall. This is another great chance to get photographs with the sun-tanned Aloha Kitty and Dear Daniel who flew in to Manila all the way from Hawaii.

The "Aloha Kitty Character Live Show" is brought to you by Gift Gate Inc. and the SM Supermalls with McDonald's, Fuji Films, Pro Kids, Tokyo Tokyo, Hello Kitty Café, JVC, Kinder Zoo and the Heritage Hotel Manila, the official residence of Aloha Kitty. The Aloha Kitty Mall Tour is for the benefit of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Philippines.

Hot summer styles for keeping cool

WITH THE SCORCHING heat likely to continue for another month or so, Creative Concepts has come up with hot summer styles to keep you cool.

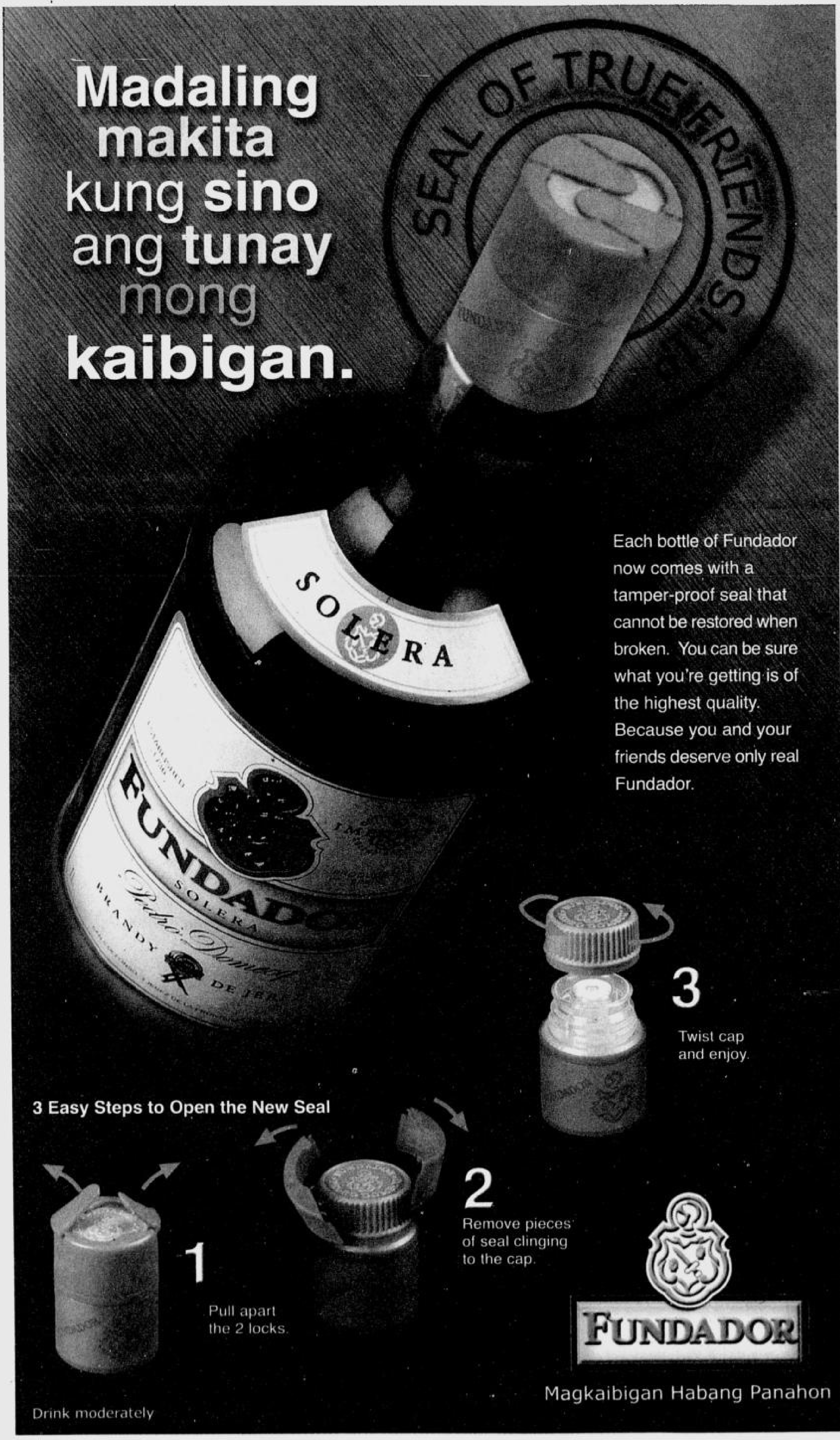
Young and fab girls can mix, match or jazz up the various styles with their summer accessories.

Creative Concepts has trendy tops that will appeal to everyone—sleeveless, hanging or string and loop blouses—in a variety of styles and designs. Sleeveless blouses with front zippers are made of cotton linen fabric. Printed and collared hanging blouses are accented with a string along the bust line.

Creative Concepts branches are at the Designer's Depot on Quirino Avenue corner South Superhighway, Landmark, Ever Gotesco (Grand Central Caloocan and Las Piñas), Plaza Fair on Pasong Tamo (Makati Cinema Square), Plaza Fair Cagayan de Oro City (Lim Ket Kai Center), Fairmart Cubao (Farmers Plaza), JS Gaisano Davao City department stores and soon at Circle-C Mall Congressional Road and Designer's Depot Shaw Boulevard. Creative Concepts is a brand of Metro Fashion Inc.

GET SMOOTH WITH SMOOTH FANTASY

Playtex presents Smooth Fantasy, a shape-enhancing bra that promises a head-turning cleavage. It has built-in side pads for push-up and lift. Its seamless cups give one a smooth, natural look. It has comfortable fiberfill cups with cotton fabrics lining the insides. Available exclusively at Sara Lee Direct (formerly House of Sara Lee) and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. Call the Sara Lee Hotline at 810-5402 or e-mail customer.relations@hosl-ph.com.


Madaling makita kung sino ang tunay mong kaibigan.

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1 Pull apart the 2 locks.

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3 Twist cap and enjoy.

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Magkaibigan Habang Panahon

Drink moderately

Audio-video stores hold sale

AVID Sales Corp. is holding a sale at nine of its outlets until June 16.

AV Surfer, the country's only AV-IT convergence store, is holding a sale at Ali Mall (until June 16), Alabang Town Center (until June 2) and Ayala Cebu (until June 2). Aiwa Showroom Kalaw (until today) and Best Brands Balintawak (until June 2) offer as much as 40-percent discount on selected items.

Special value packages and zero-interest deals on selected television sets and Sony HandyCam await customers at Avid Sony Shop Quad (until June 2), Filinvest (until June 2) and United Nations Avenue, Ermita (until June 1). Call 525-2215/3624/3547.

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...Milk Magic
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BIG, BIG DISCOUNTS.
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Alabang Town Center (between Guess & Warner Bros.) May 27-June 9 & (Activity Center, Infront of Tower Records) June 20-26
Robinsons Ermita (Infront of Robinsons Spmkt) June 14-28
SM Centerpoint (2/F, Centermall) June 19-July 2
SM North Edsa (Centermall) June 26-July 9
Festival Mall, Filinvest (Carousel Court) June 27-July 10
Ayala Center, Makati (3/F, Glorietta 4) July 1-15
SM Megamall (Infront of French Baker, Bldg A) July 4-17
Robinsons Galleria (Infront of NBS, EDSA Entrance) July 18-31
PROVINCIAL
SM City Cebu (Inside Dept. Store) May 9-31
SM City Davao (Infront of Hang Ten) May 27-June 2
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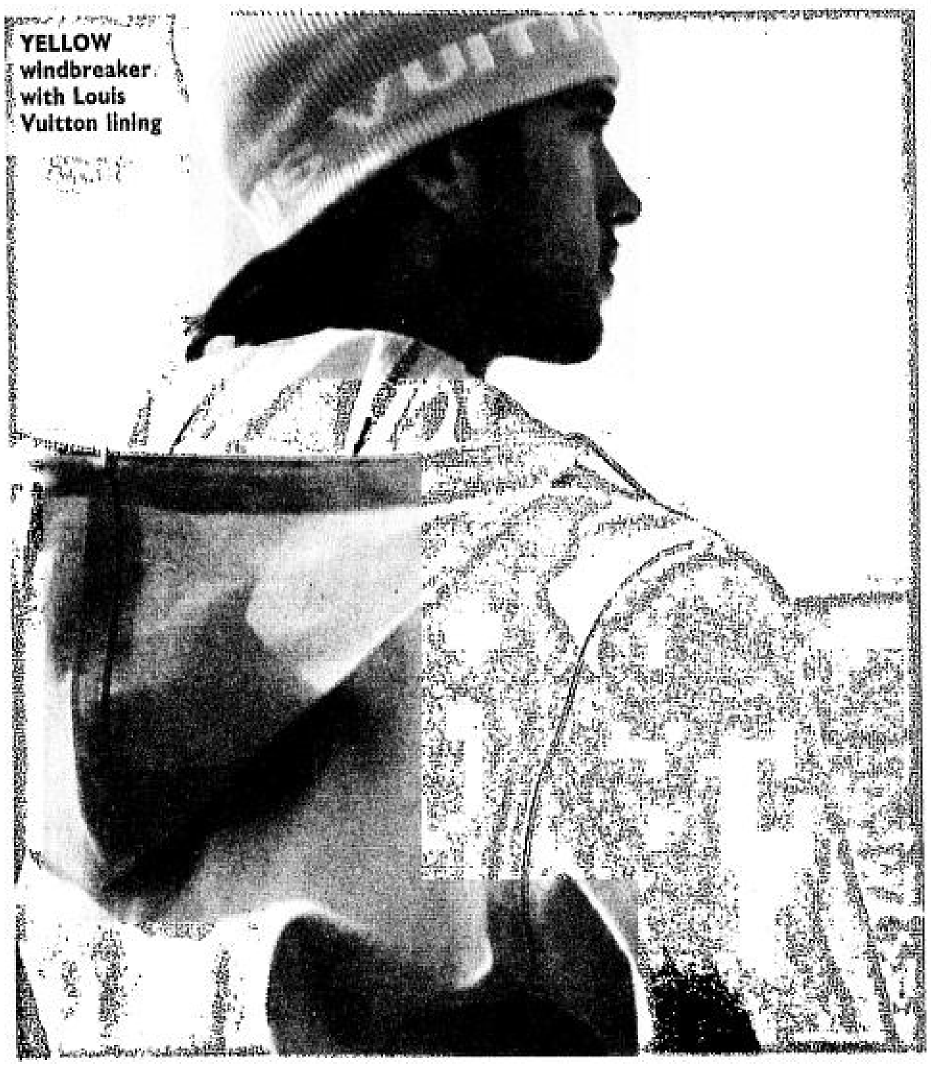
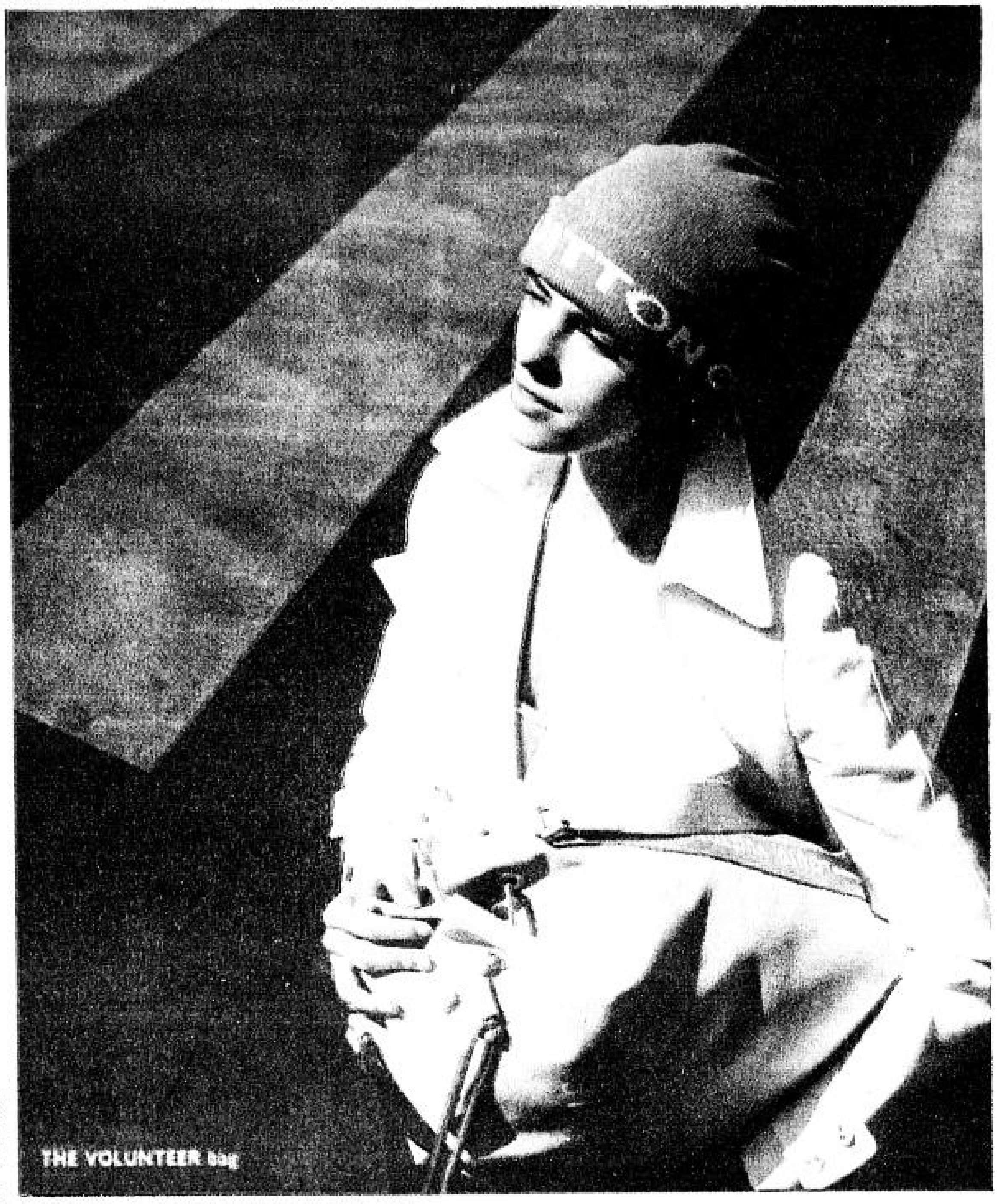


YELLOW windbreaker with Louis Vuitton lining



THE VOLUNTEER bag

The sailing life

From page D1

was inspired by the typical bags used for storing boat sails. Fashion and function in Louis Vuitton form is also clearly reflected in the American Cube, a bag that can transform from a shoulder strap bag to a cube-shaped traveling bag for sailing trips. Since those who lead sporty lifestyles are constantly on the go, the Weatherly is *the* bag for all day trips. Compact, it has enough room for essentials, plus room for a mobile phone and bottled water. The Volunteer gives a modern spin to the LV classic drawstring bag.

The newest line of windbreakers and parkas are simply to die for. It consists of graphic lines and contrasting colors. Traditional materials were innovated to suit the needs of the modern sportsman. Cast in Teflon and cotton, the fabulous windbreakers and parkas are protected against oil and water. And take note, no screaming brand or logo on the front of the jacket. As the norm with reliable fashion brands, attention is given to details. The Louis Vuitton emblem is located in the inner bias binding of the jacket. A welcome plus indeed is that these jackets are comfortable, refined and truly soft to the touch.

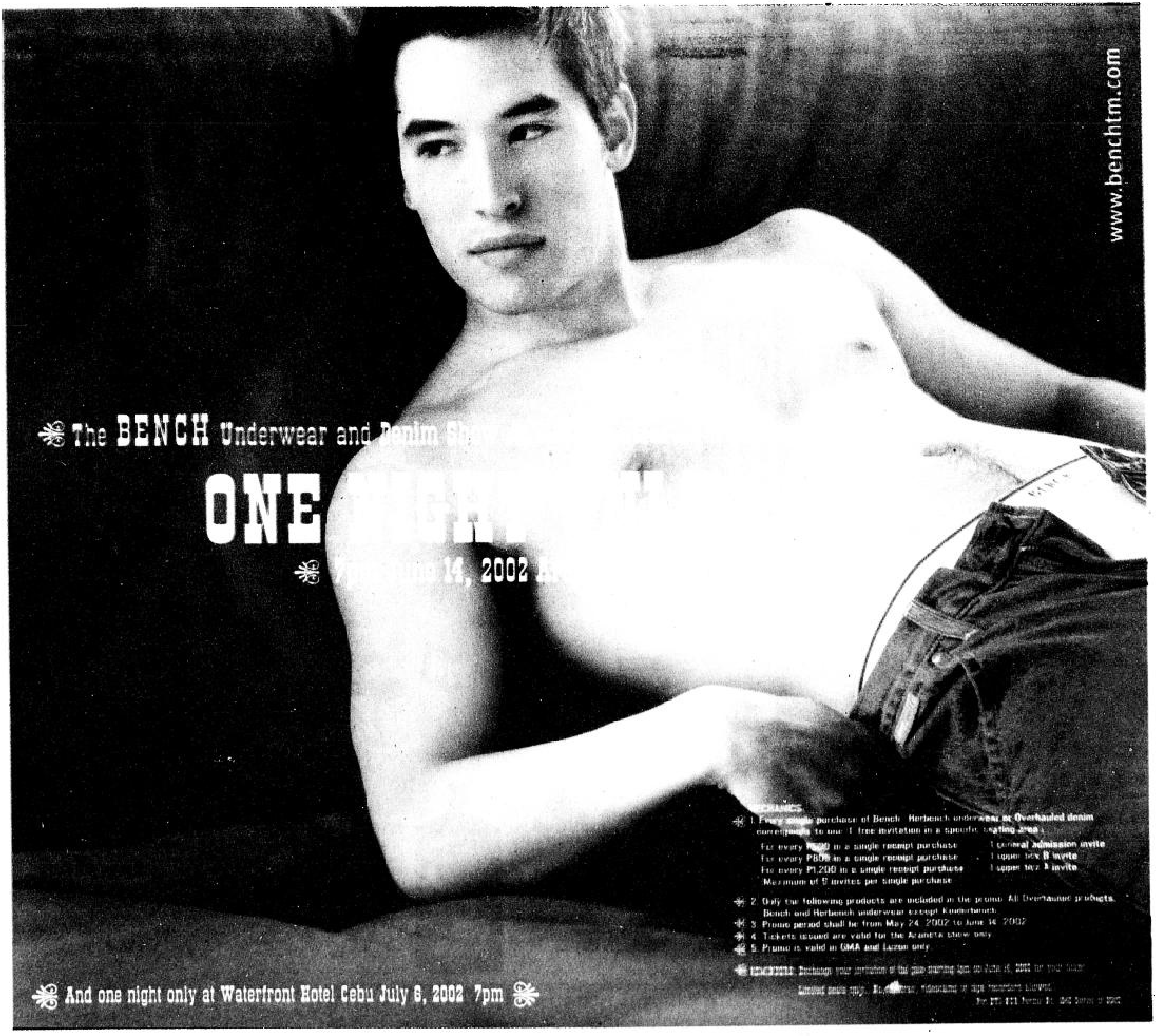
Ways to innovate

In deference to the host country for this year's most fashionable regatta event, LV Cup presented the kiwi bracelet and necklace—small and yes, discreet, it is designed to "go well with any outfit." Versatile, it can adorn your neck or your wrist as a double-turn bracelet. The LV logo is discreetly placed beneath the kiwi's feet as one of its marks of authenticity. The kiwi bracelet and necklace will please even the most non-sporty of fashionistas.

Trust LV to come up with this season's most streamlined and sporty sunglasses. Apart from offering three filters that will guarantee excellent protection from strong light, the lenses promise to provide excellent visual comfort. If there is indeed one item that fuses fashion and comfort, it's this year's LV Cup sunglasses. Subtlety is the name of the game—the event flag is engraved at the bottom of the right-hand lens and LV cup signature piece is engraved in the left earpiece.

"The competition really gives us a chance to find ways to innovate our designs and look for materials that have never been used before in

THE SAILING/ p.D7



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5. Promo is valid in GMA and Luzon only.
[illegible]

THE WEATHERLY bag

The sailing life

From page D6

our lines," said Nathalie Tollu, corporate press attaché of Louis Vuitton Inc.

Special LV cup bath towels and bandannas playing on the colors orange and yellow have also been especially designed for this year's LV Cup.

The LV Cup 2002 collection is designed by contemporary fashion's "it" boy, Marc Jacobs. Clearly, whoever wins the LV Cup is destined to become the most fashionable participant in the America's Cup.

Challengers

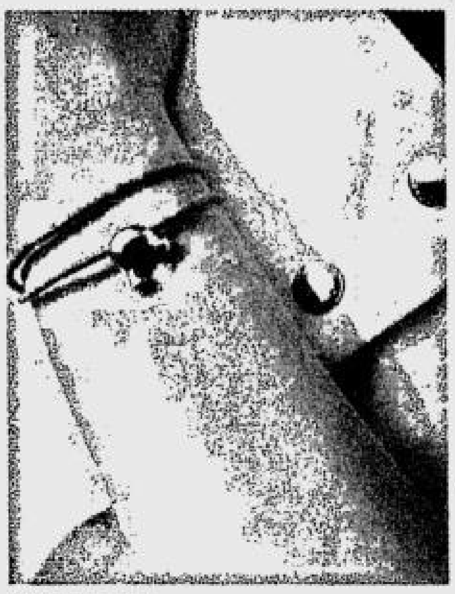
America's Cup, perhaps the most challenging among the international yachting events, began in 1851. America's supremacy in the yachting event since its inception has driven competing nations to go full force in launching a "challenge against America." Organizing selection trials became a necessity. Louis Vuitton began to participate and associate itself with the yachting event. The trusty fashion brand became one of the joint organizers in the series of trial eliminations; thus, the Louis Vuitton Cup was born.

The year 1983 became a significant footnote in the history of the America's Cup when Australia ended America's supremacy, winning the Louis Vuitton Cup and afterward, the most coveted America's Cup.

This year's Louis Vuitton Cup will be held in Auckland, New Zealand. The yachting competition commences in October 2002 and ends in February 2003. The United States will be fielding three teams while France and Italy will be fielding two teams each. Sweden and the United Kingdom will also be sending one team each.

As a special toast to this year's most fashionable regatta, Möet, LV Cup's official partner, is issuing a limited edition of its famous champagne to honor the occasion. These mini-bottles, will carry especially designed green labels to honor the 20th year of Louis Vuitton's partnership with the America's Cup. In Hong Kong, only 200 bottles will be distributed, much to the delight of serious wine collectors.

LOUIS Vuitton Cup sunglasses



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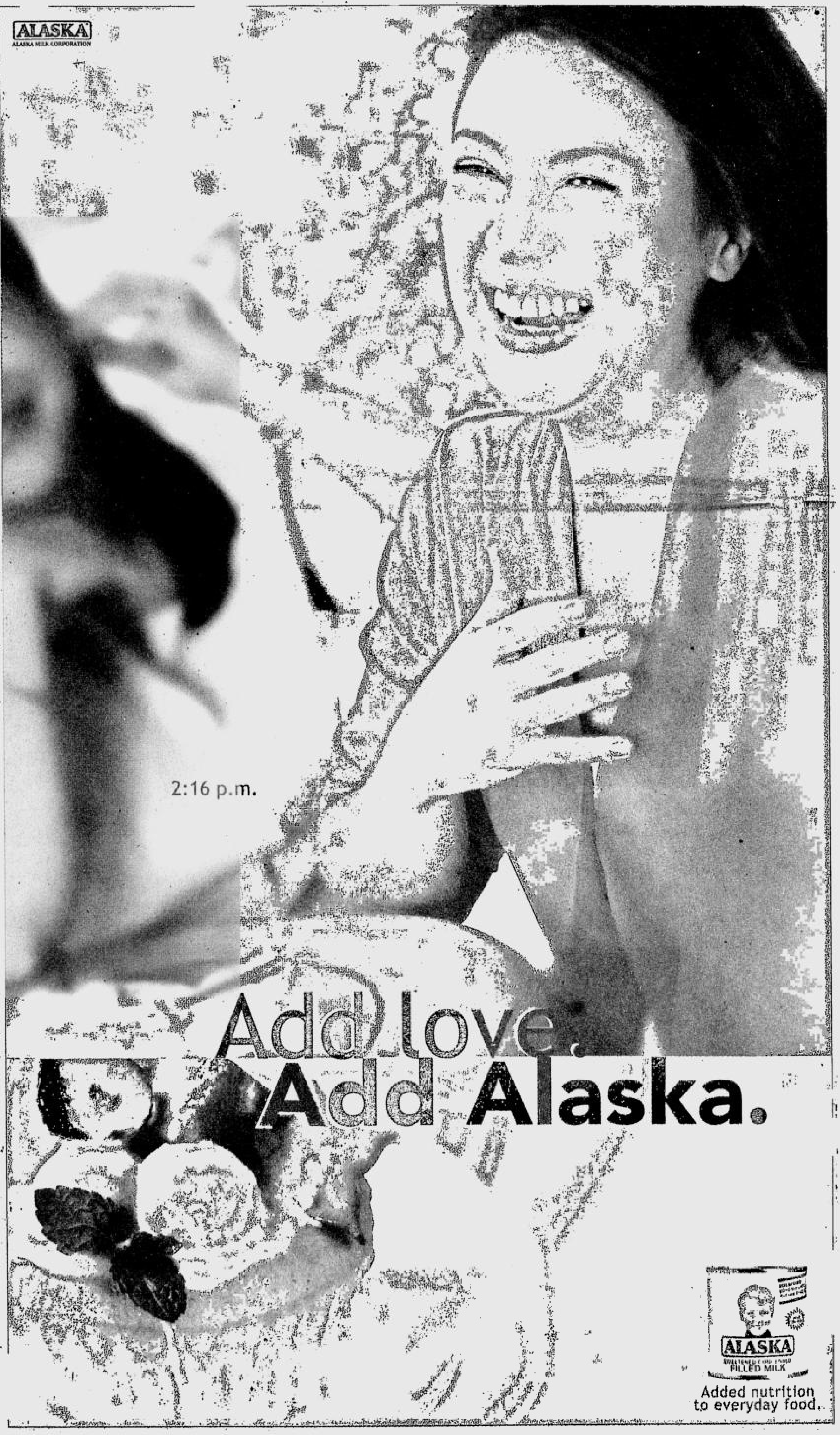
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MIRACLE men Juan Miguel Ongsiako, Fitz Puyat, Juami Rocha and Domini Primero with L'Oreal Philippines' GM Edwina Guiyab (extreme left), Lancôme unit manager Mel Lerma (extreme right) and Little Miracle Foundation's Bianca Araneta

HOSTS Leica Carpo (extreme left) and Tessa Prieto-Valdes (extreme right) with guests

Manly scent from Lancôme

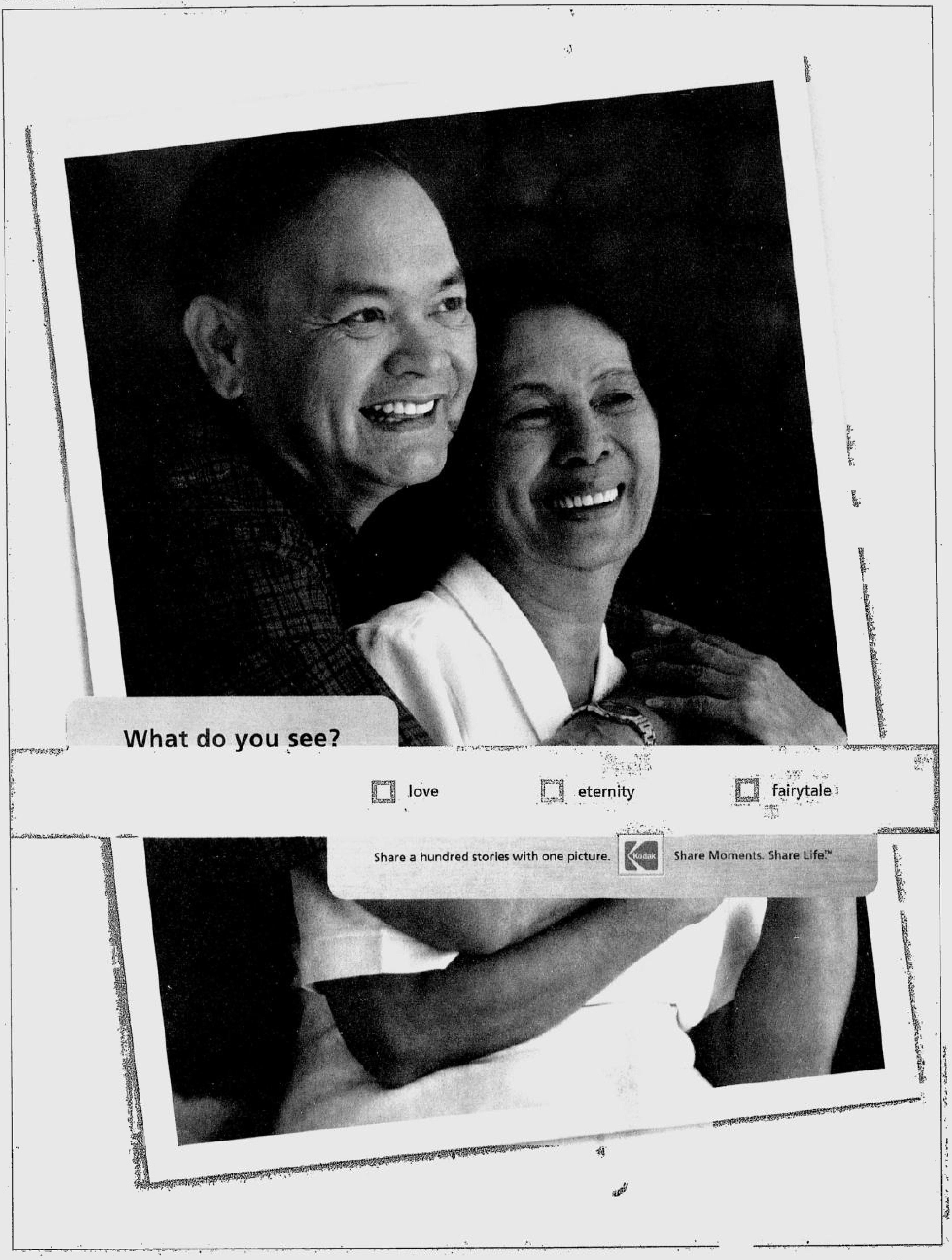
FOLLOWING its successful launching of Miracle for Women, Lancôme has launched its latest fragrance for men, Miracle Homme, at Mati, the restaurant-bar in Rockwell Center.

During the event, Miracle "auctioned" four of Manila's most eligible bachelors—entrepreneurs Juan Miguel Ongsiako and Fitz Puyat, athlete Juami Rocha and events organizer Domini Primero. Proceeds went to the Little Miracles Foundation, established by Bianca Araneta to send street children to school.

Miracle Homme is a sensual and manly scent that incites men to leave their mark in the world. It is available in all Lancôme counters at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La and Alabang Town Center.

MIRACLE man of the night Fitz Puyat tests the new fragrance.

JENNI Epperson and INQUIRER columnist Kinny Salas put on their angelic smiles.



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LIFESTYLE

Thinking of Jeannie

LIFE-STYLED

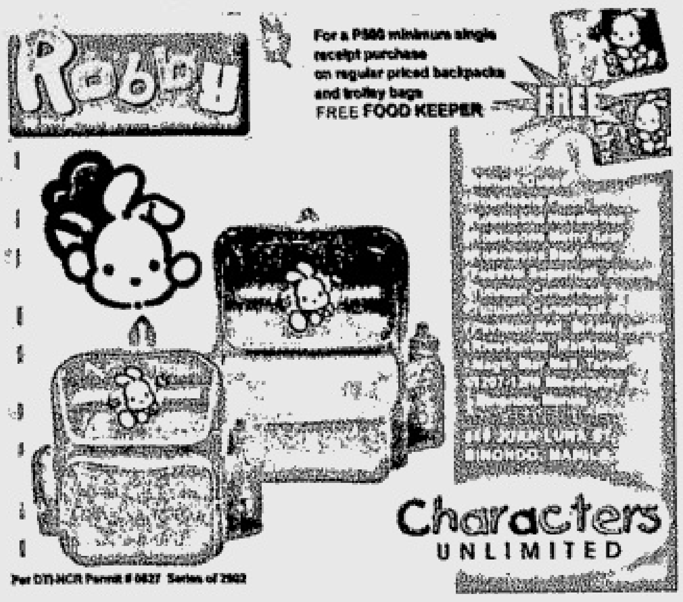
Thelma Sioson San Juan

NEVER thought I'd be touching on death in two successive weeks, but I am now.

Last Friday I got a text from **Lulu Tan-Gan** saying that **Jeannie**'s daughter **Natasha** just died. Even on a tiny screen I saw and felt Lulu's jumble of thoughts and emotions. Each moment with your child was precious because you'd never know, she said. She was crying. We knew how Lulu felt.

But at that moment, not one of us could approximate how Jeannie was feeling; moreover, how Jeannie was. Jeannie is Jeannie Goulbourn, a pioneer in Philippine ready-to-wear fashion and in Filipino silk design and making (Silk Cocoon). Her name is a byword among consumers, particularly the working women. Natasha was her youngest, one of only two and, at 27, at the peak of her enjoyment of life.

THINKING/ p.E5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Shortcuts

For the humid rainy season, denim capris are best

Text by Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Johnny Villena

WITH THE ONSET of the rainy season comes heightened humidity. So if your jeans wardrobe begins to feel too thick and warm, search for those thinner, finer fabrics such as denim capris.

There are denim capris for everyone. Those who prefer a little bit of flare may slip into a nice blue capri pair with a slight detail, whether a horizontal stitch or a pocket or two. For darker shades, one may try bullet accents along the side slits, or simply plain and semi-flared. Also, one may choose capris that are tapered on the ankles.

ALL ITEMS FROM CINDERELLA, 2/F SM MEGAMALL A

BLINDED BY THE DARK. Another option for the darker side, from SYC, P698

PERFECTLY STITCHED. Naf Naf does a stitched detailing, P898.

BULLET POINTS. Silver studs give that punk look. From Naf Naf, P998

TAPERED to the ankles, from Naf Naf, P898

INDIGO BLUES. The darker side of denim with a side slit. From SYC, P698

HORIZONTAL stitching

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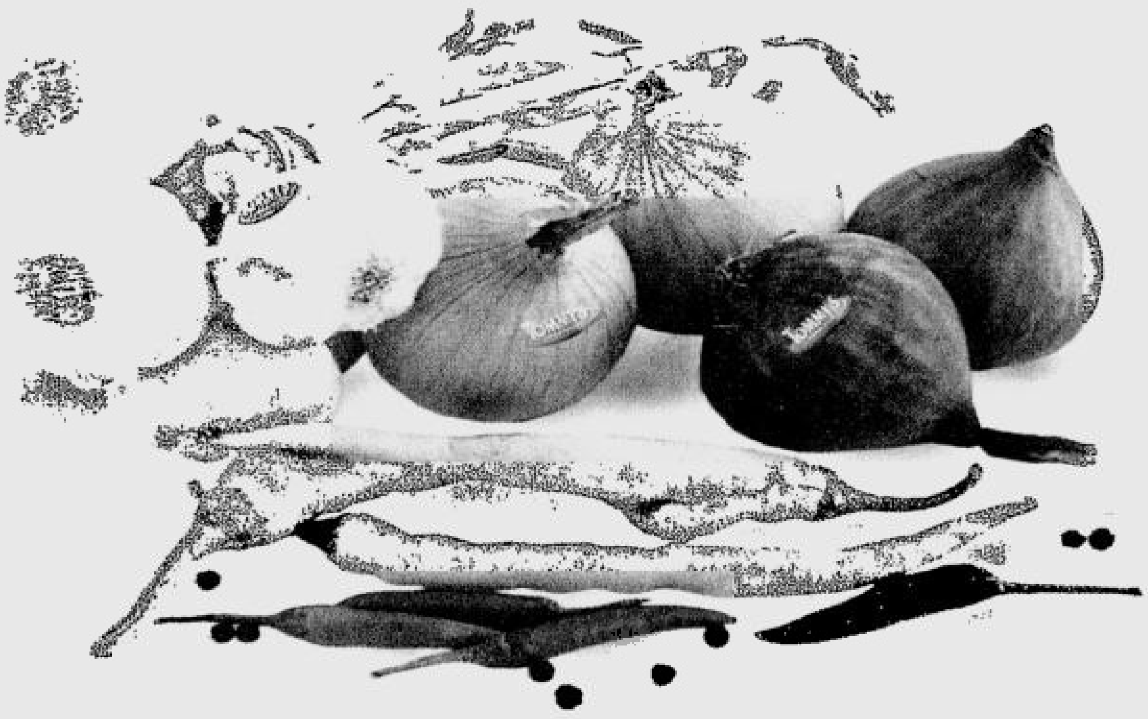

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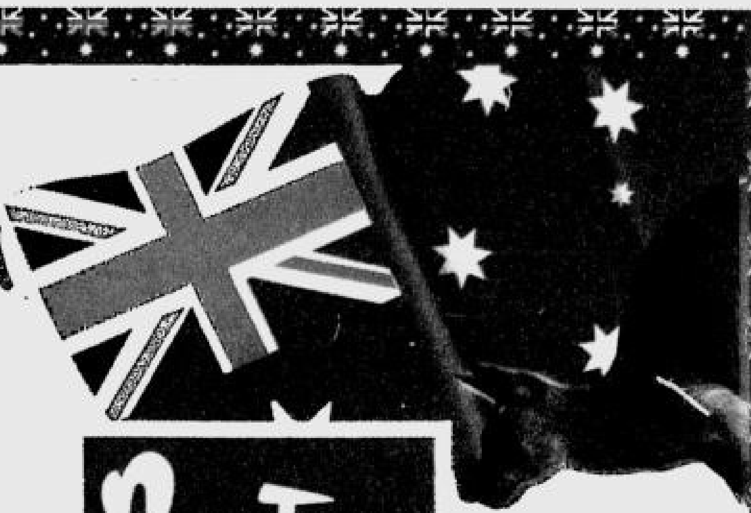

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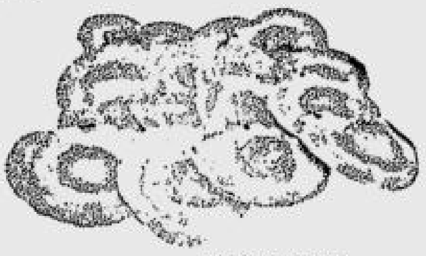

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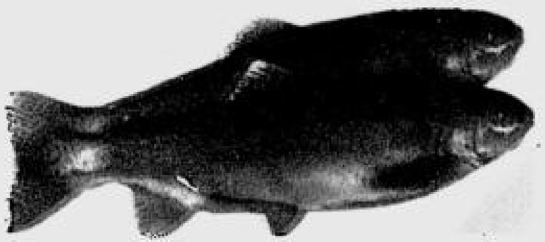

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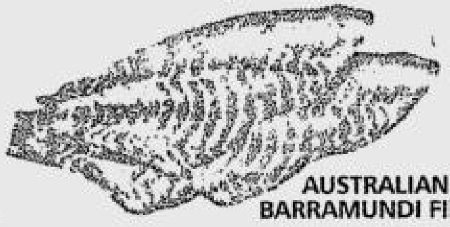

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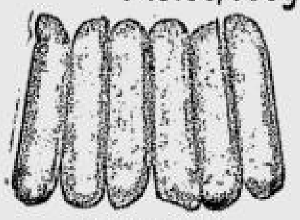

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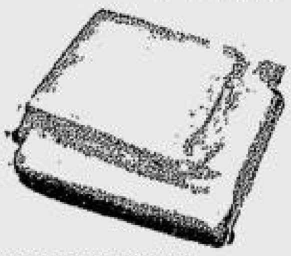

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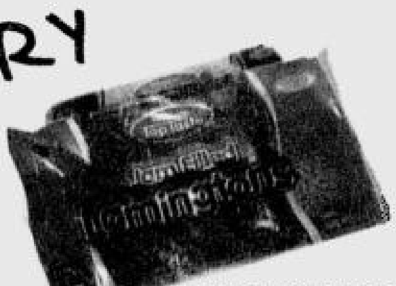

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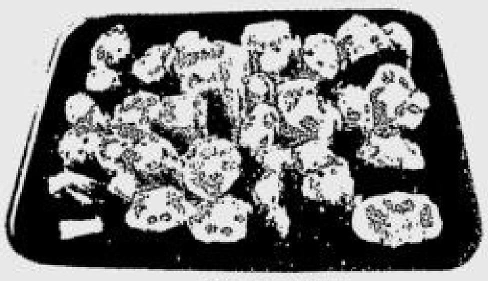

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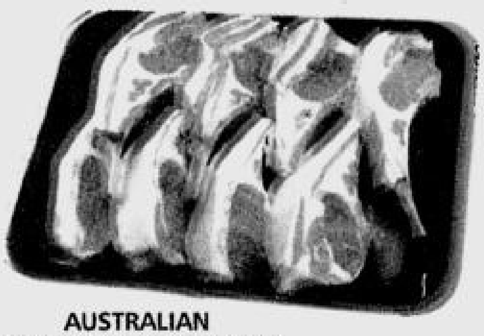

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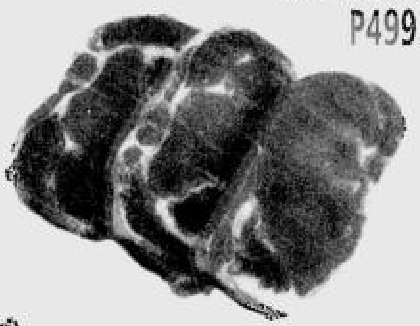

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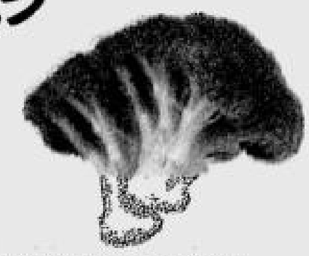

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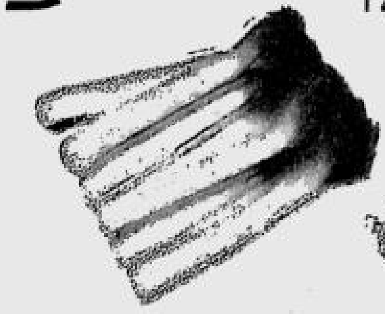

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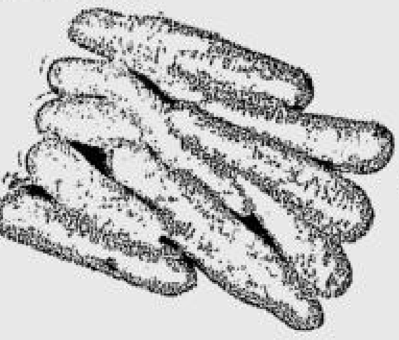

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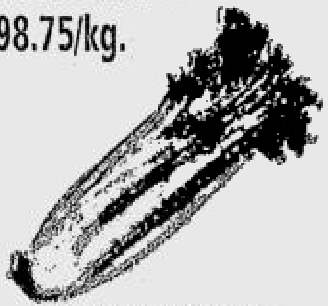

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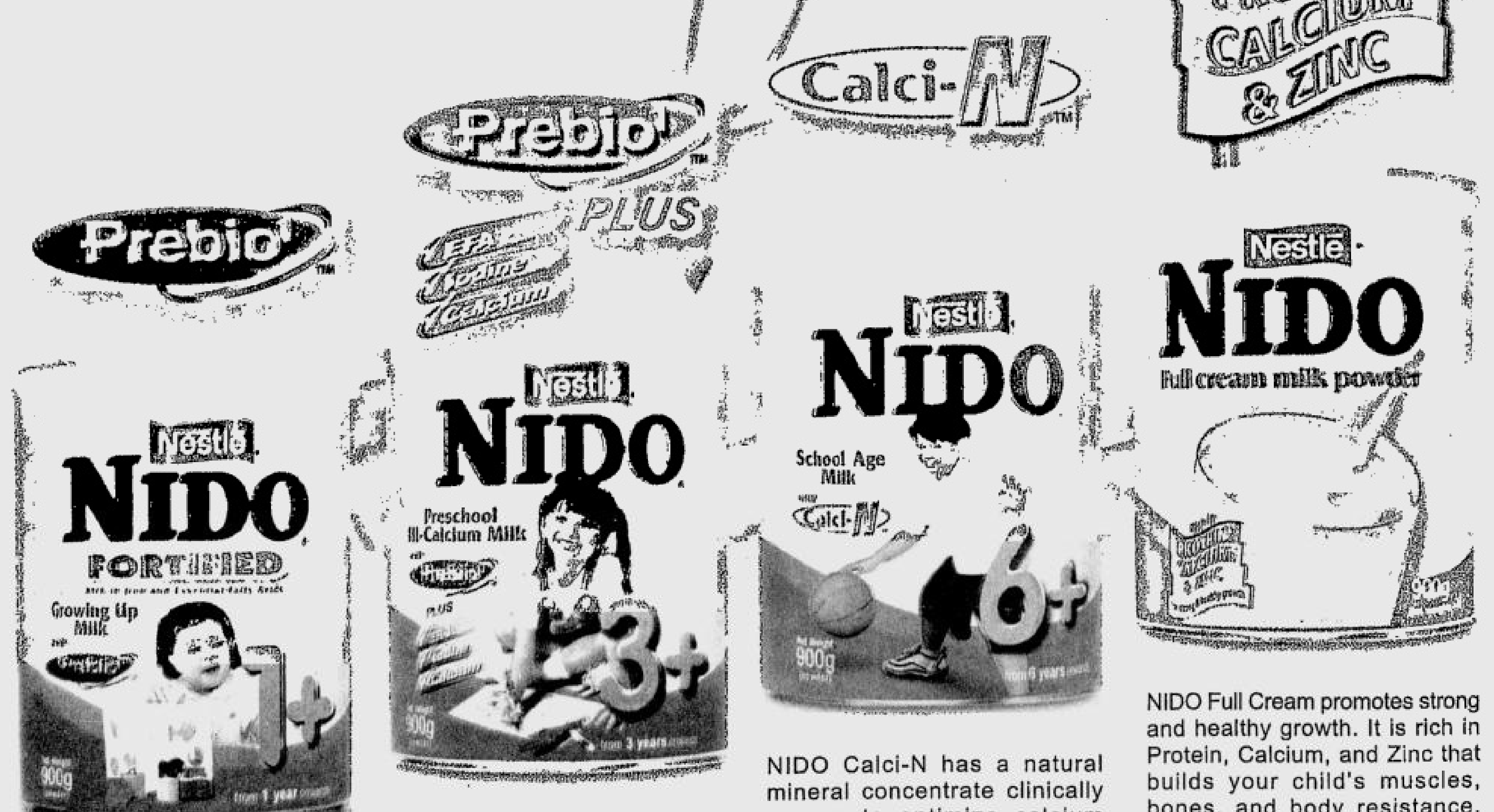
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Thinking of Jeannie

From page E1

Just a few weeks ago, we were having dinner at Mati with architect **Conrad Onglao**, Jeannie and later **Susan Reyes**, **Tessie** and **Pancho Escaler**. Walking up to our table was this very pretty long-haired girl with a super bod. It was Natasha, with her friends, coming to greet us before they took the table next to ours.

> Natasha was her youngest, one of only two, and at 27, at the peak of life

Conrad chided Jeannie and me that he had yet to have dinner with Jeannie without some young lady coming up to her to greet her "Tita"; now, Conrad said, we're *tita* to this generation we first met as tykes but were now full-grown women, that's how long we've been around. Natasha was exactly that to me—I saw her and her sister **Katrina** when they were precocious kids hovering around our lunch table, trying to grab their mom's attention for every imaginable reason.

Now Natasha was a looker who could make heads turn, including mine, as she walked into the room. It was as if girls like Natasha metamorphosed into super babes in a blink, I thought, and always in situations like that, I found myself giving my standard *tita* line: Gosh, how you've grown.

But Natasha, I noticed that night, carried over one thing into adulthood—a face that was so bright it would light up a conversation way before it could begin. Natasha was cheery that night. I learned that she continued to be based in Hong Kong where, for a time, she worked for Nine West and where she later started her own bag business.

That was a few weeks ago. Last Friday, she was dead even before she could fully live.

The news of her death spread with the lightning speed of text messaging and, along with it, a variety of rumors about the cause of her death ranging from morbid to downright ridiculous. **Maurice Arcache** told me he was at the dinner of **Mia Borromeo** and **Jacques Dupasquier** when the news reached the party, and all sorts of speculation were texted in. (This is how bored Manila must be, enough to get engrossed in speculations. This is the Manila whose current major source of entertainment is passing on the e-mail battle royale between **Kitty Go** and **Anton San Diego**.)

From Friday to this week, Jeannie, her husband **Sid** and daughter Katrina were in Hong Kong attending to Natasha's remains. It was her close friend who told me what really happened.

Natasha was due for treatment in the US in the next few weeks, which was why her dad had been with her in HK. Her back was causing her pain so she was on painkillers. Last Thursday she went out with friends, had drinks. Apparently complications arose from a combination of alcohol and medicines. She died in her sleep; she never made it to the hospital where her dad rushed her.

But unbearable as the tragedy might have been, the friend said, the funeral rites in Hong Kong were solemn enough to bring solace to the family and Natasha's close friends. They took turns reminiscing about the Natasha who touched their lives—a caring, thoughtful soul who would bring home stray cats so she could look after them; an outgoing, vivacious girl who was always there for her friends; a responsible daughter who'd look after her mom and dad.

I didn't know Natasha well. It is Katrina I do regular lunches with and whom I work with. A talented designer herself, Katrina creates for Silk Cocoon and has a loyal young clientele, including brides. To me Katrina's big attraction is that she's a fine writer who's reliable with deadlines. She wrote for the INQUIRER and continues to write in our magazine. Like Natasha, she's one of Manila's beautiful faces.

At this point, however, our thoughts are no longer about Natasha but those she left behind, Jeannie particularly. It is proof of Jeannie's character and strong ties that her friends rushed to her side on Friday morning upon learning of her daughter's death, and they kept her company until noon when she flew to Hong Kong. Friends like **Conrad** and **Nena Tantoco** even followed her to Hong Kong to be by her side during the funeral, with Conrad bringing the urn that would contain Natasha's ashes. (Funeral masses were set for yesterday and today at Santuario de San Antonio before the interment tomorrow.)

People know Jeannie as among the friendliest of fashion designers. She's known for her engaging conversations that she can keep going for hours, most of the time focused on the people she's with. She has this extraordinary interest in what you do and how you are doing, no matter that she's trying to hurdle problems herself.

But perhaps not many know that in the past years Jeannie has been on a spiritual path. She meditates every day and has been trying to win people over to this habit, me included (without success, if I may add). I find it uncanny now that over dinner a few weeks ago, she kept talking about the power of prayer and how she found deep fulfillment in her spiritual journey. It gave her inner strength you couldn't find elsewhere; she tried to convert us that night.

Now we find solace in knowing that Jeannie must have been spiritually prepared for life's near-fatal blow such as this. We also know, unfortunately, that no one could ever be prepared enough for losing a loved one, certainly not a parent who loses a child. A child is one you scold, nurture, enjoy, protect and resolve to let go come independence day, but not one you bury. Your child is supposed to bury you, not the other way around.

That's why when fate has things in reverse, you see them, initially at least, as an unjust tragedy. Onlookers like us, lucky for us, cannot adequately describe or even completely feel such a tragedy, and we pray that in our own lives, we remain as such: onlookers.

Now even as we, her friends, condole with Jeannie and her family, we can only look on and hope that she can draw extraordinary strength from our collective ordinary strengths. We say a prayer coming from one human being to another, when fate suddenly turns superhumanly harsh.

McBeal and Ford

NOW for a breather. Couldn't resist People last week, because I was curious about the hottest Hollywood couple: **Harrison Ford** and **Calista Flockhart** ("Ally McBeal"). The pair is open about their romance (movie date, sharing popcorn and the like); she's 37, he's 59. This Ally McBeal has not only a slim (okay, anorexic) bod, she's also got Harrison Ford.

Got an invite from Studio 23's **Edge Pamute** for a June 1 gig worth checking out. His Groove Nation is doing chill-out music (they've introduced dance/electronic music, rave scene, etc.) this Saturday with Japanese artist **Tomoyuki Tanaka** as guest.

Chill-out music, Edge stresses, is more than slow and relaxing. "It covers more upbeat music such as bossa nova, down-tempo, deep house and even some lounge indie-pop hybrid." Groove Nation has been developing venues for such since the mid-'90s.

Tanaka is a DJ/producer/record fanatic whose Fantastic Plastic Machine is, Edge says, now the rage at the Shibuya music scene (which brought us Pizzicato Five). Edge says Tanaka can create the mood for dancing, or just sitting back to relax—that's how well he can weave in his tracks. Joining him, aside from Edge, are **Toti Dalmacion**, **Anton Ramos**, **Mario Serrano**. It'll be at Greenbelt Park at sundown.

I want to go. At the rate I spend for my sons' CDs, I'm not only a user of chill-out music (perfect for finishing up magazines) but also an investor in it.

Richie Lerma, who now heads the Ateneo Art Gallery, wrote to remind us of a milestone event at Loyola Heights. The Gallery is displaying rare prints and drawings from its collection, in an exhibit titled "From Rembrandt to Ruiz: Approaches to the Human Form." It explores human representation through four centuries of graphic art—from Rembrandt's "Descent from the Cross" (1654) to Picasso's "Le Chef d'Oeuvre Inconnu" (1931) to Jose Tence Ruiz's "Globocop." It'll run until June 15.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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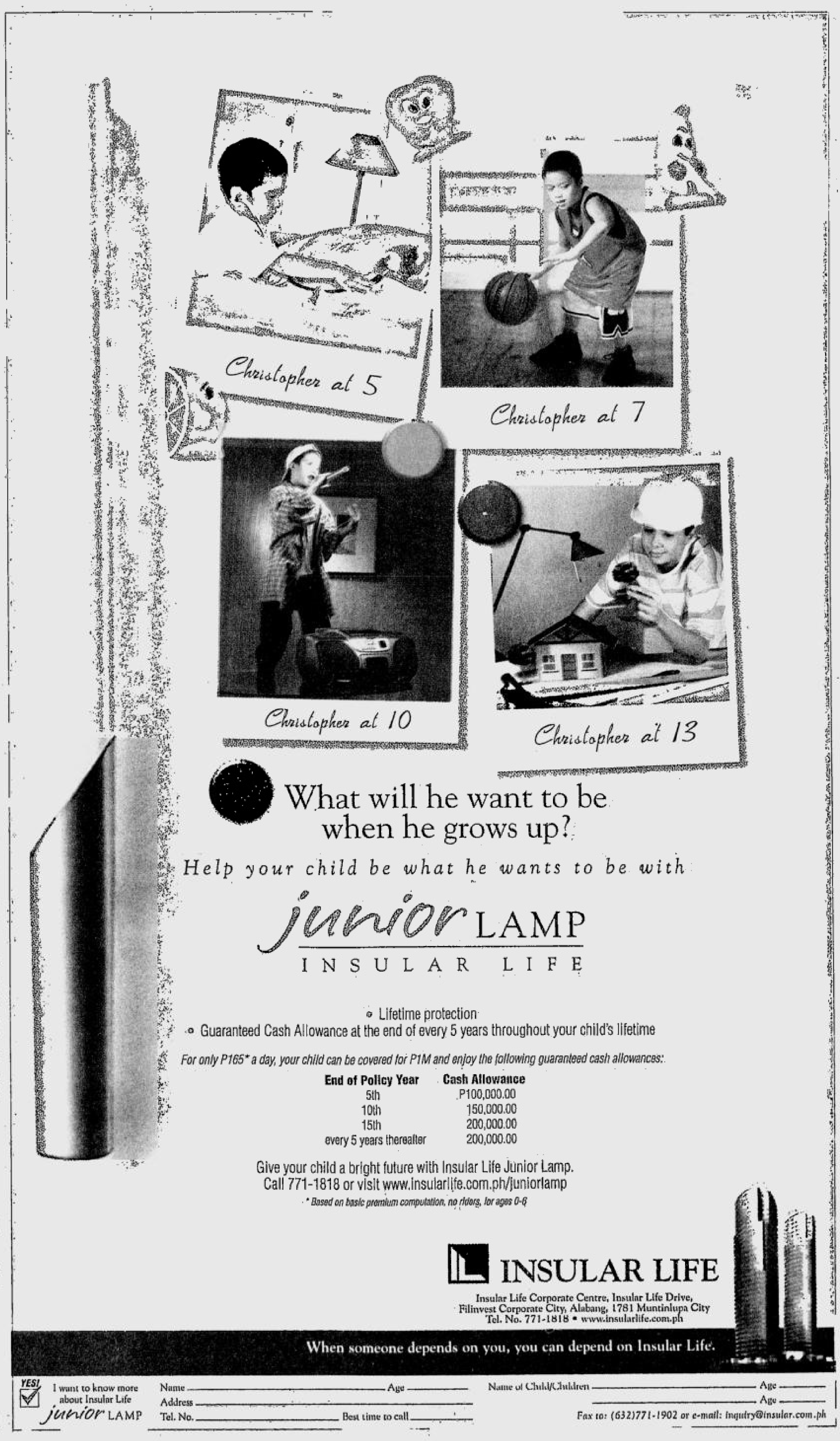

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OYSTER BAR. Marga Montemayor and Celine Gabriel at Mistral

THINK DEFECT. Paolo Raymundo and Cecile Zamora at the FAD show

THE WHITE SHOP. Tina Maristela and birthday boy Rajo Laurel

White light!

Text and photos by Tim Yap

AWAY from the dark, Manila's fashion denizens have shifted to the white light, opting for this cool color to beat the heat and humidity. You see, white has this healing touch that just makes things feel light. Either that or Philip Cruz, construction magnate and restaurateur, is the latest fashion icon.

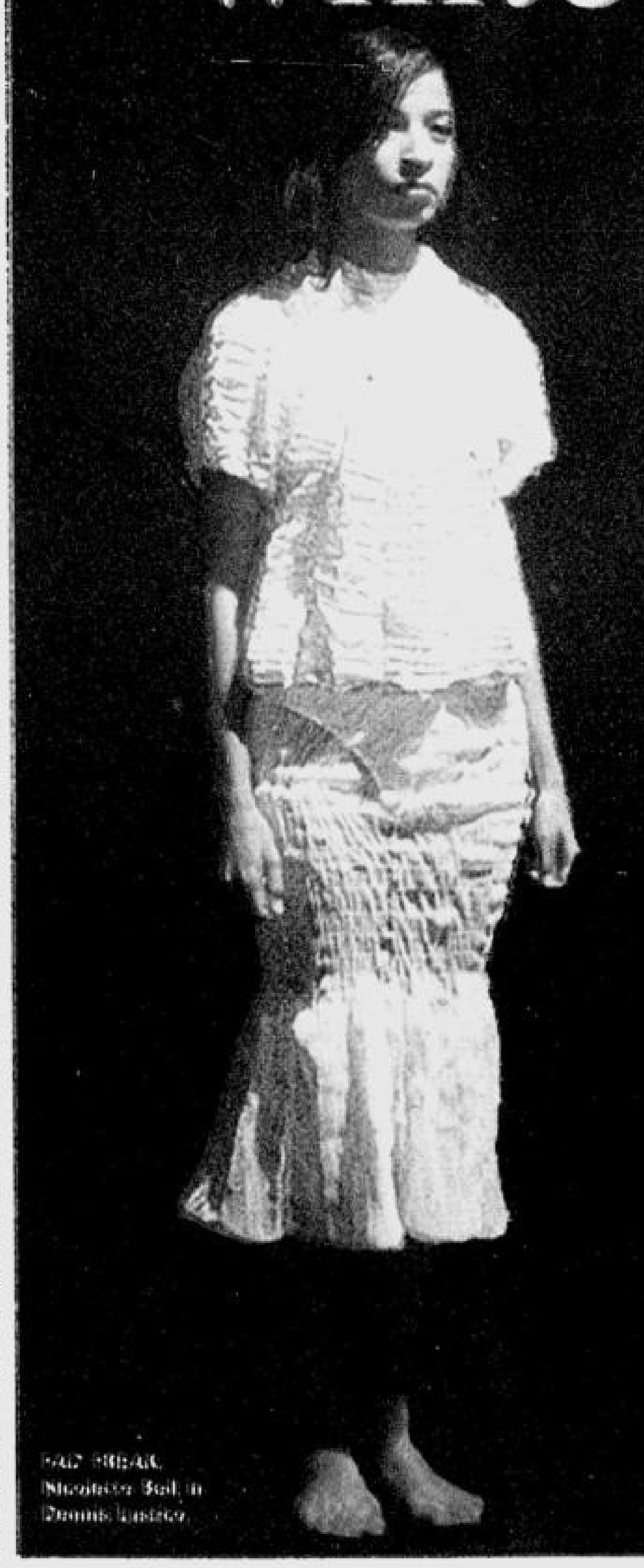
White hot is the way to go now. From Viktor and Rolf's heavenly collection, which came out right before the 9/11 disaster, to today's crop of design geniuses, it seems everyone has gotten the white fever. Here in our town, it is an ethereal sight to see all of Manila's fashion fairies coming out in their lighter than light outfits.

Whether the white is contrasted with graphic patterns in black, red or aqua, or its starkness is subdued with pastels, making one look like the chic-est human sorbet in town, you can never go wrong with God's favorite color.

Even, from the Glorietta parties at Fashion Week, to the FAD shows and Coke Light launch at the Tent, to the Swatch and NBC events at Venezia, it [illegible] white-clad [illegible] on the scene. [illegible] their hangout [illegible] Mistral, where stylish, entrepreneurial, bright young things Marga Montemayor and Celine Gabriel preside, their [illegible] oyster bar. Everyone from the hostesses to the guests were wearing, what else, white.

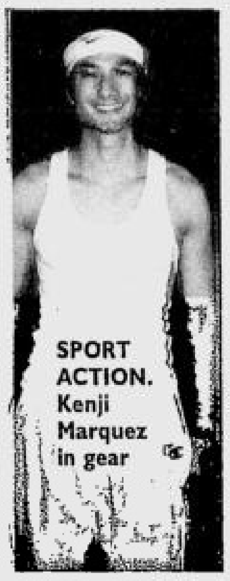
Sunday, it was Rajo Laurel's white-themed birthday party. From his family to the fashionistas, everyone indulged in the color of the moment. "I'm [illegible] now, so I'm gonna start feeling the youth," the still young designer said [illegible] [illegible] white he [illegible] [illegible].

From church to the altar, to the party halls of the city, there is no more [illegible] [illegible] theme. On this page witness the week in white.


FAD FREAK. Nicolette Bol, in Dennis Lustico.

ALMOST ANONYMOUS. Ayen Santos at Venezia

G SPOT. Gelli de Belen seen at the F&H party


SPORT ACTION. Kenji Marquez in gear

SWATCH babe Sarah Meier does a Monroe at the Coke Light launch.

MYX MATCH. Clara Balaguer backstage at the Coke Light launch

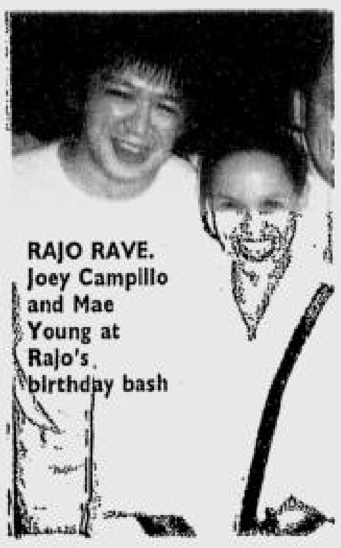
DAVAO DOYENNE. Tina Pamintuan and Tisha Ang

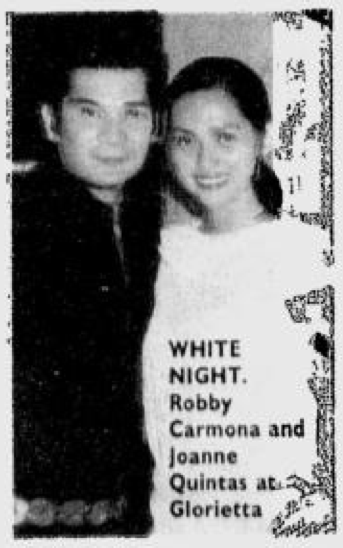
STYLE FILE. Pam Gonzales in Replay

CARELESS WHISPER. Carlo Adorador with model Bambi

LACEY LINGERIE. Chico Cristobal and Dara David at the "Sex and the City" bar tour launch

FAD man Ariel Lozada and Fe Reyes at the NBC Tent.


RAJO RAVE. Joey Campillo and Mae Young at Rajo's birthday bash


WHITE NIGHT. Robby Carmona and Joanne Quintas at Glorietta

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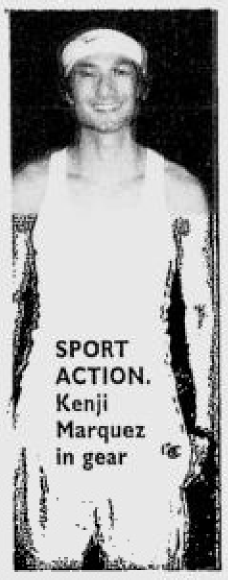
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I went from the Glorietta parties at Fashion Week to the FAD series and Coke Light launch at the Tent, to the F&H and HBO events at Venezia, to style-spot white-clad partyphiles in the scene. I then hopped onto Mistral, where stylish, entrepreneurial, bright young things Marga Montemayor and Celine Gabriel unveiled their aphrodisiac-induced oyster bar. Everyone from the hostesses to the guests were wearing, what else, white.

Sunday, it was Rajo Laurel's white-themed birthday party. From his family to the fashionistas, everyone indulged in the color of the moment. "I'm 33 now, so I'm gonna start telling the truth," the still young designer said in jest. Not a white lie, I tell you.

From church to the office, to the party halls of the city, there is no need to impose a color theme. On this page, witness the week in white.

SWATCH babe Sarah Meier does a Monroe at the Coke Light launch.

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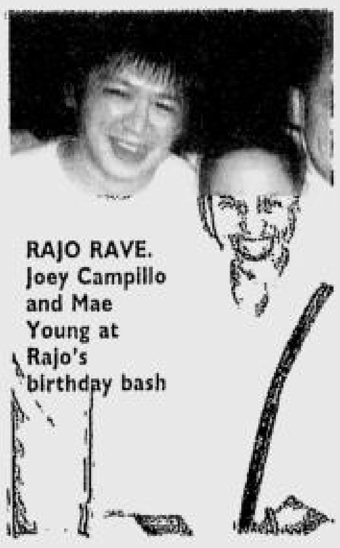
RAJO RAVE. Joey Campillo and Mae Young at Rajo's birthday bash

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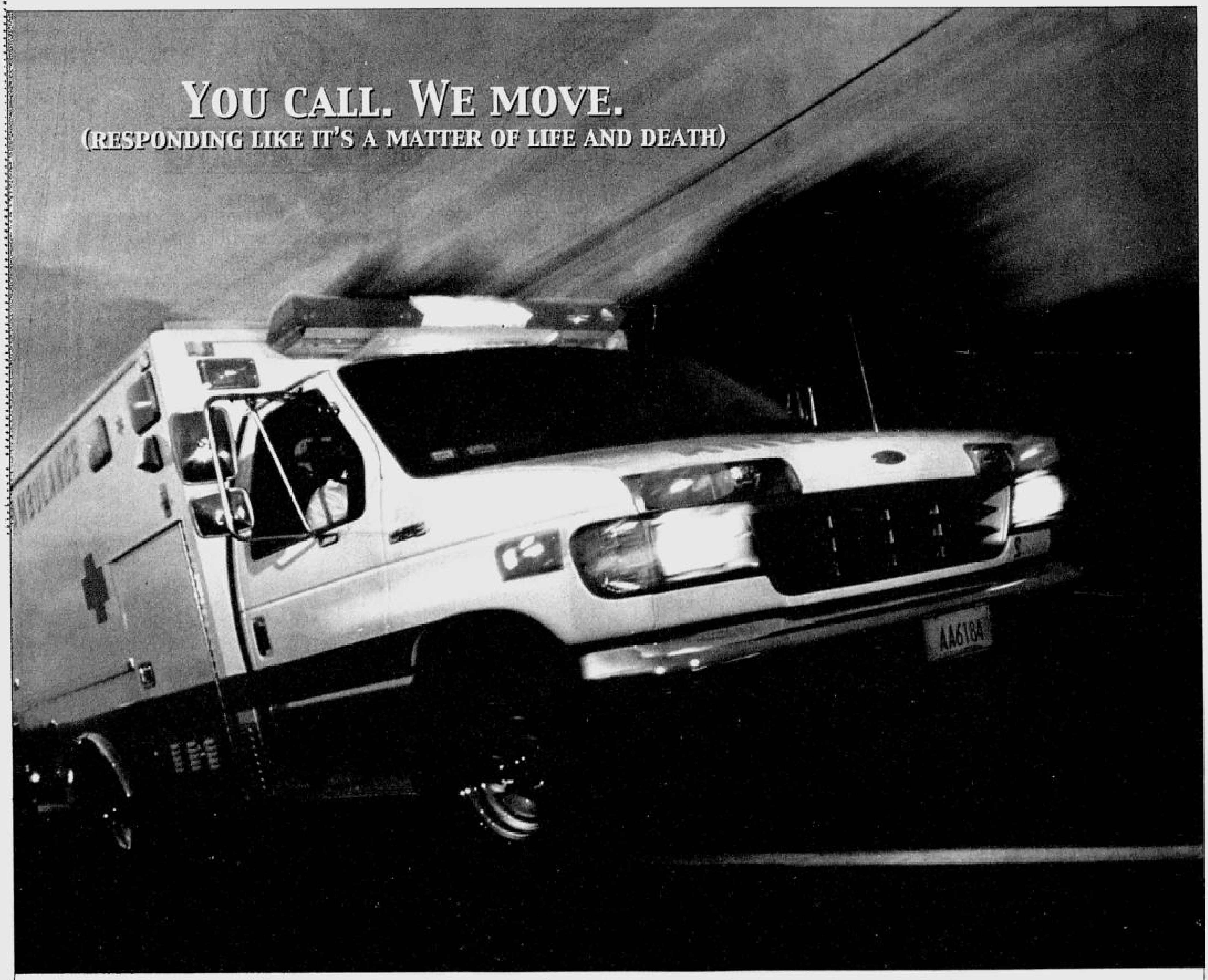
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Ben Farrales of yore, present and beyond

BEN Farrales has chalked up 50 uninterrupted and distinguished years as a successful fashion designer, earning the unstinting reverence of younger fashion practitioners and students who look up to him as great influence, mentor and dean. If only for all of these, an anniversary gala is in order on July 1 at the ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La.

Fittingly called "A Fashion Celebration: 50 Years of Ben Farrales," the show will be both a retrospective of what Farrales modestly calls "some of the things I have successfully done" but updated in his inimitable manner. It will also be a showcase of what to expect from Farrales in the new millennium.

It will also be the first gala show of Farrales in 12 years, since his personal tribute to the fashion icon Chona Recto Kasten in 1990, a much-acclaimed show that proved haute couture had not gone under because the onslaught of RTW.

Farrales will prove again that haute couture is alive and well. The tour de force of the invitational gala is expected to be the finale collection of 30 fabulous and rich evocative gowns in shades of gold, as modeled by Olen Lim, Maricar Totengco, Tetta Ortiz, Gem Padilla, Melanie Marquez, Alta Tan, Apples Aberin and Tweetie de Leon.

The show will witness the launch of the Ben Farrales Foundation, which will provide scholarships to the St. Scholastica's Philippine International School of Fashion.

The gala show will also see the launch of "Fifty Years: In My Fashion, Ben Farrales," written by Abe Florendo. The beautifully produced little book will be given as gifts to Farrales' friends, faithful clients and supporters.

"The book," says Florendo, "is not a biography of the designer but an attempt to put into proper perspective the design achievements of Ben Farrales, who was the only Filipino designer to derive his inspirations from the colorful culture of the Muslim south. He did this with a certain prescience of what to preserve and perpetuate."

Guests at the anniversary show will also be treated to an exhibit of quintessentially Farrales gowns at the foyer of the Rizal Ballroom.

Emcees will be Tina Maristela-Ocampo, Rosa Rosal, Aurora Pijuan and Mary Prieto.

PHOTO: ROGER CARPIO

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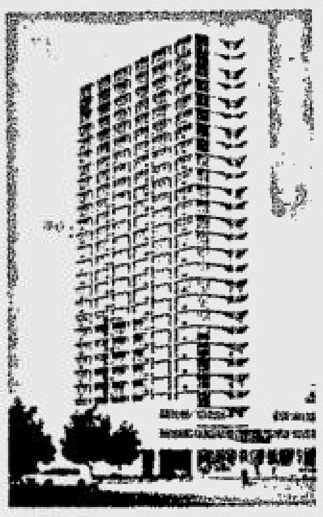

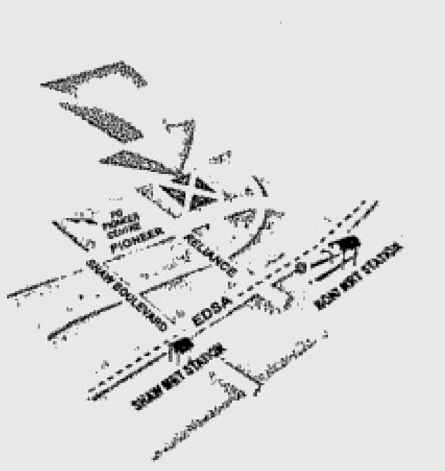

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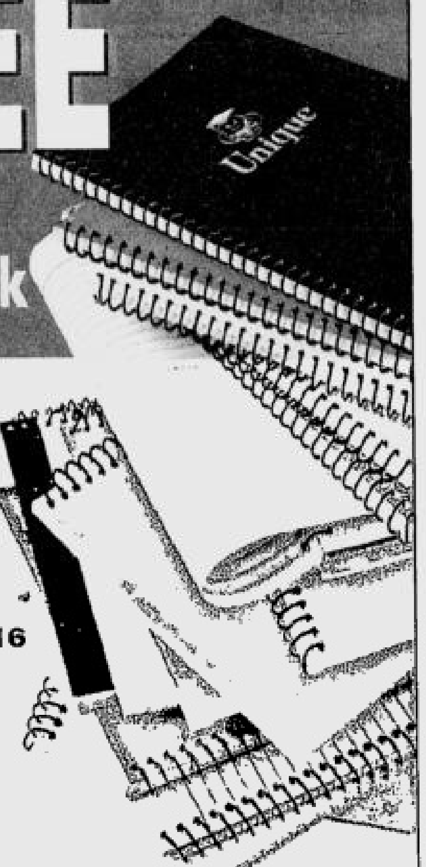

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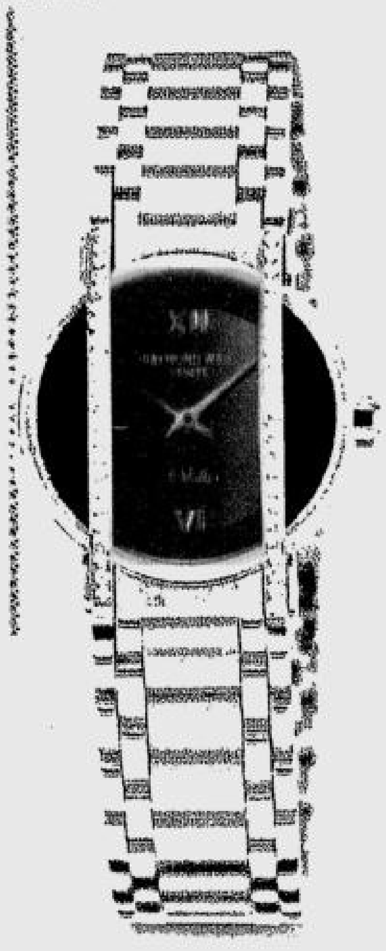
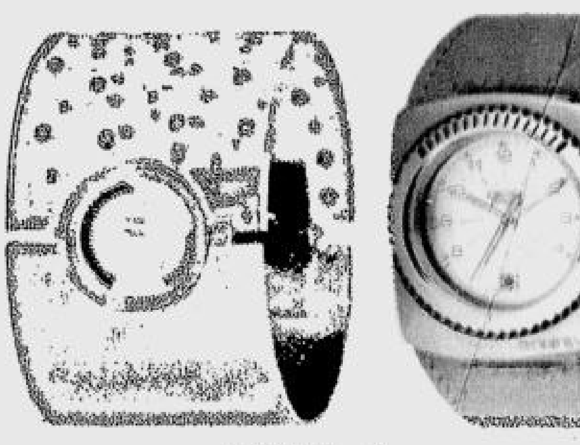


RAYMOND Weil Othello OR



DIESEL Time Frames

OMEGA Speedmaster

Watch what happens

FLIP through those glam-filled glossy magazines and what do you see? Advertisements for watches—treasured as jewelry, bedecked with diamonds, made of highly-valued metals, designed by artists who have discovered the joy of a small, small canvas, awash with colors, high profile, low key, water-resistant and tamper-resistant, but irresistible. You name it, they've done it. That tiny piece of time has changed face far too many times.

Shakespeare's pride

RAYMOND Weil adorns its latest Othello OR in 18-carat yellow gold case with 46 diamonds. Enhanced with brandy colored dial with roman raised numerals, sapphire crystal with metal treatment and quartz movement, the Othello OR is water resistant to 30 meters.

Razzle-Diesel

THE NEW Diesel watches' color pallet is bright and shiny. Retro cases, warm shades and bold shapes give these frames a '70s revisionist appeal. From oversized sport and unisex cases, combined with fabric straps, to slim cases with steel sober bracelets and fashion bangle with gold spots for women, the collection features retro and modern details.

Omigosh!

The Omega Speedmaster Broad Arrow's new design emphasizes the hour hand, which is offered in blued steel, rhodium-plated, or in 18-carat gold. The facetted hour markers are sufficiently luminous for easy reading even at night; the anti-reflective sapphire crystal case comes in platinum, 18-carat gold or steel. The exclusive 3303 caliber, which is an entirely new development both in terms of design and manufacture. This COSC-certified automatic chronograph has a generous reserve of 55 hours, highly shock-resistant guaranteeing water resistance to 100 meters, and provides greater stability. Choice of either an 18-carat gold or steel bracelet, or a polished Louisiana alligator skin, saddle stitched by hand.

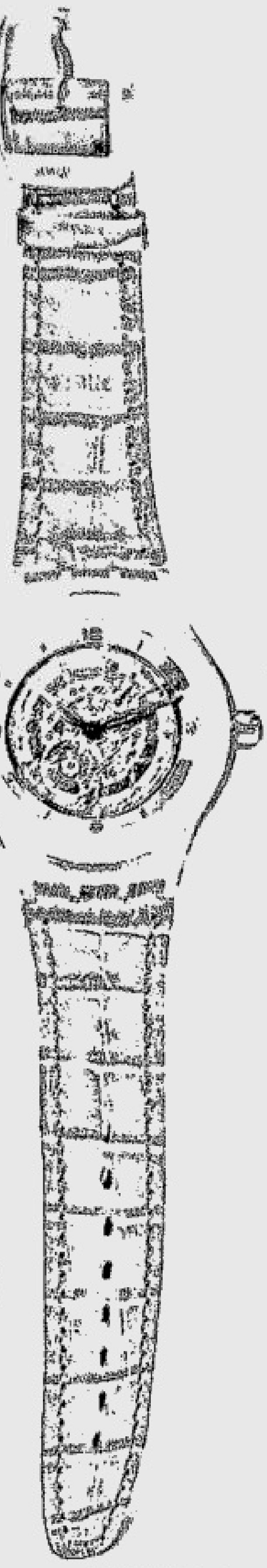
The One and only

DIAPHANE One, soon to be released by Swatch, combines an optimum movement, Swatch design and a meld of materials in translucent plastic and high-tech aluminum case. The limited edition Diaphane One (P150,000), which will have a run of only 2,222, is encrusted with a diamond, a ruby and a sapphire. A skeleton watch, Diaphane One puts on quite a show of both movement and beauty.

Sense of Swatch

SWATCH Skin Dreamlights brings new sensuality to your skin with the elegance reflected in the tingle of a delicate sparkle. The unusual shape and width of a cuff seductively wraps the wrist. The richness and shimmer of color describes a mood. The profile has an air of understated glamour—cool and captivating. A spray of decoratively set crystals frames the watchcase, as they enhance the beauty of the thin transparent plastic cuff bracelet. The dial is a fine complementary shade of gold, blue or silver. All come with ultra-thin silver hour hands. Swatch Skin Dreamlights is available at all Swatch stores, Swatch kiosks and Gift Gate Gallery.

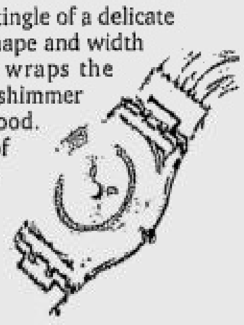
WATCH/ p.F4

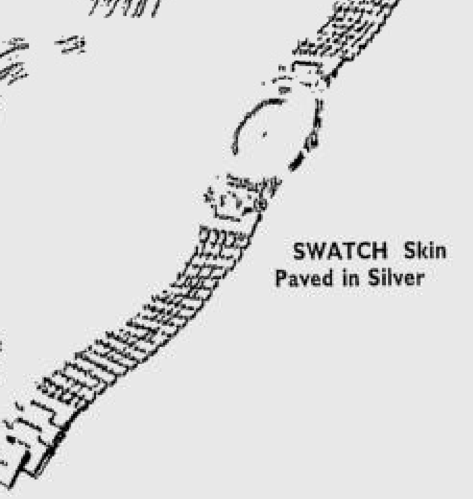


SWATCH Diaphane One

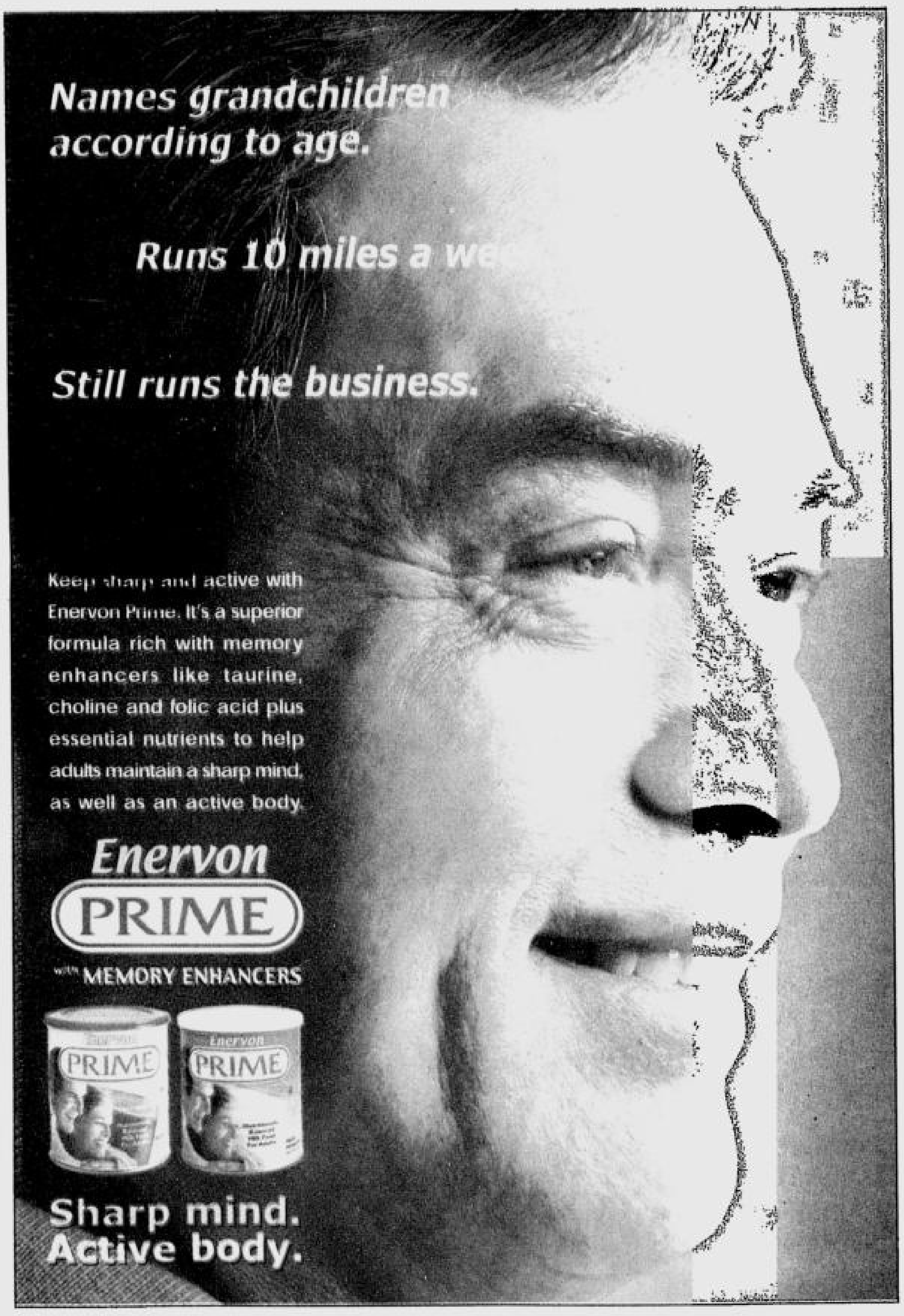
SWATCH Skin Chrono flatzone

SWATCH Skin Silver Meshstream





SWATCH Skin Paved in Silver



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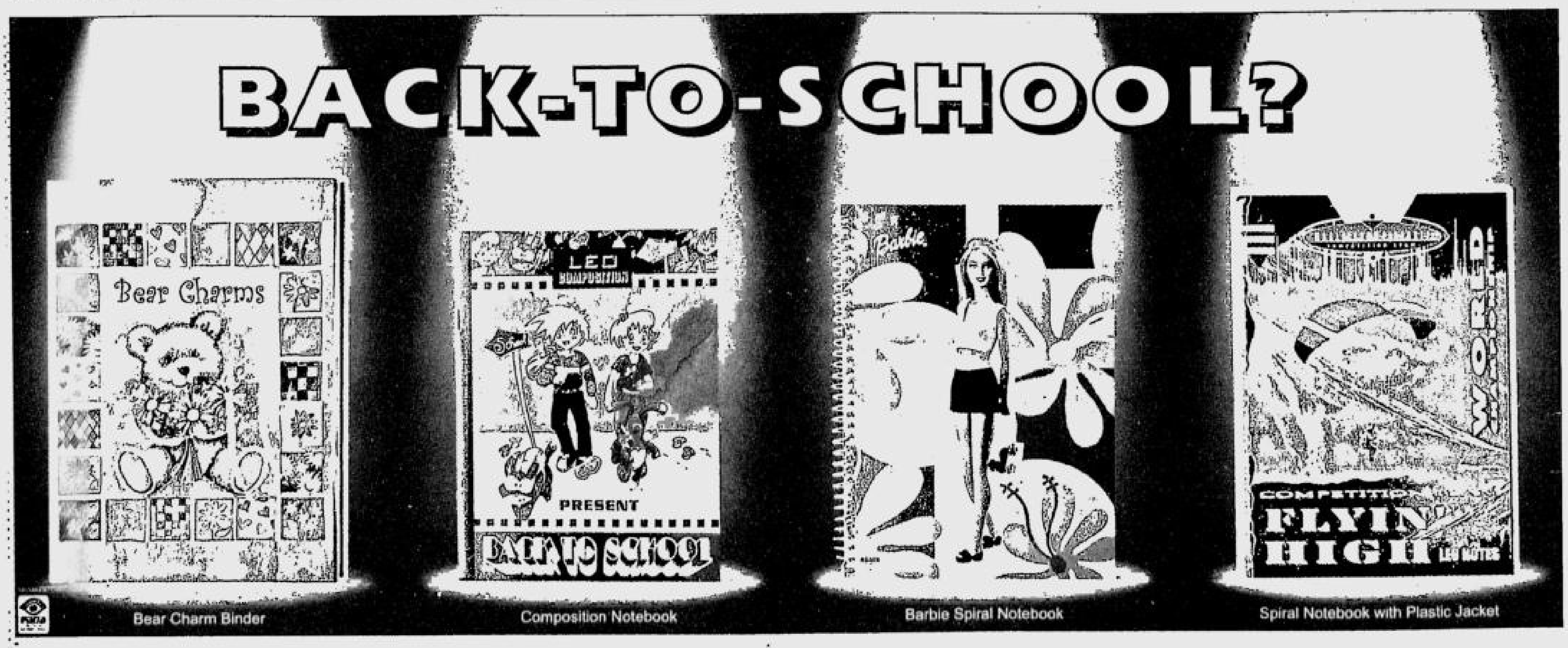

BACK-TO-SCHOOL?

Bear Charm Binder
Composition Notebook
Barbie Spiral Notebook
Spiral Notebook with Plastic Jacket

Will this list make you want to leave the country?

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

I WONDER why our fellow Filipinos, many of them professionals, leave our country. I think there are reasons, and I have made a list—I call it my "I hate it in the Philippines when..." list.

I hate it in the Philippines when:

- The guard on duty blows his whistle frequently and unnecessarily;
- The *pan de sal* hawker threatens me with his connections to the town mayor;
- I see spit on the sidewalk;
- My neighbor raises pigs and breeds flies on the side;
- My neighbor allows his garbage to pile up in the yard for our dogs to distribute;
- I stand in line and somebody slips in front of me from nowhere with an innocent look on his face;
- Schools raise tuition fees by 15 percent every year;
- I come home with a bad cold I picked up on the bus;
- My shoes get wet with overflow *estero* water during the rainy season while waiting for a bus on Edsa;
- My husband comes home with a slashed pocket and a missing wallet;
- The floods come and traffic stands still.

Of course, there are blessings, too. I love the warm weather, the highly intelligent people I get to meet everyday, the 24-hour bus, jeepney and tricycle services, shopping in Divisoria, as well as the wide and accommodating malls, and easy access to all forms of communication.

What are your comments about what I have stated?

SHEILA

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

First, you have proven that there are two sides to every coin. You complain about the traffic, but you are also happy about the 24-hour availability of vehicles.

My conclusion is that you are blessed with a good job, because you meet intelligent people; you are blessed with children or else tuition would not bother you; you also have a husband who is a good-earner with a well-filled wallet. Thank the Lord that the slashing did not cut into his flesh, like it did with someone I know.

Your last statement also proves you have a cellular phone, a computer with all the necessary accessories, and a cordless phone.

Let's hope that people with garbage and pigs will do something to avoid bothering those who live near them.

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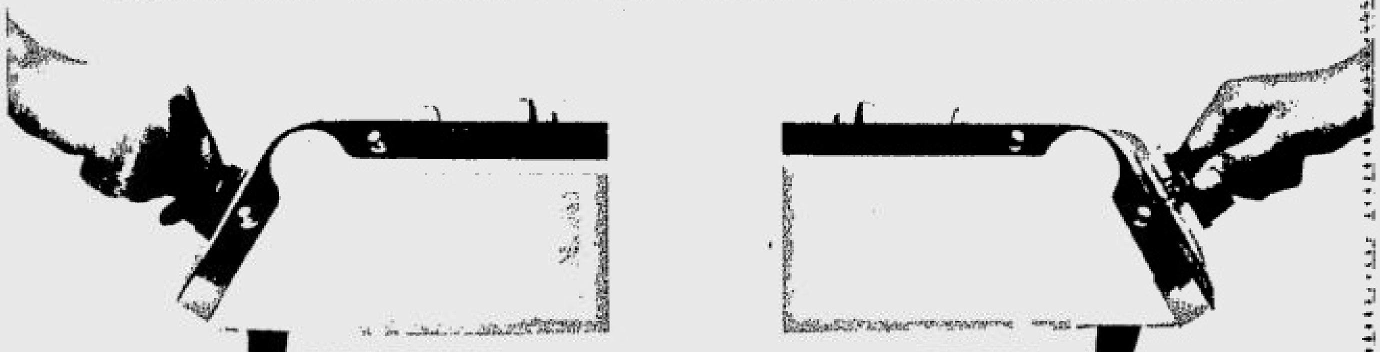
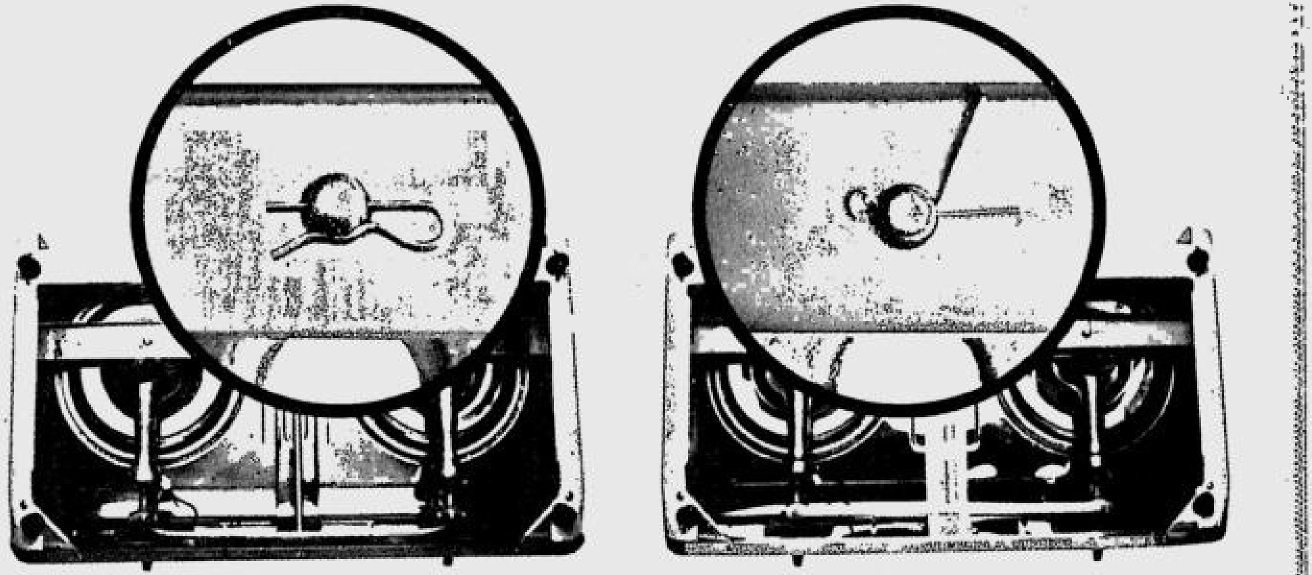


ORIGINAL
Pag-tinulak ang ignition knob, dikit na dikit sa body ng stove.

FAKE
Kahit anong gawin mong pindot o tulak hindi dumidikit sa body ng stove.



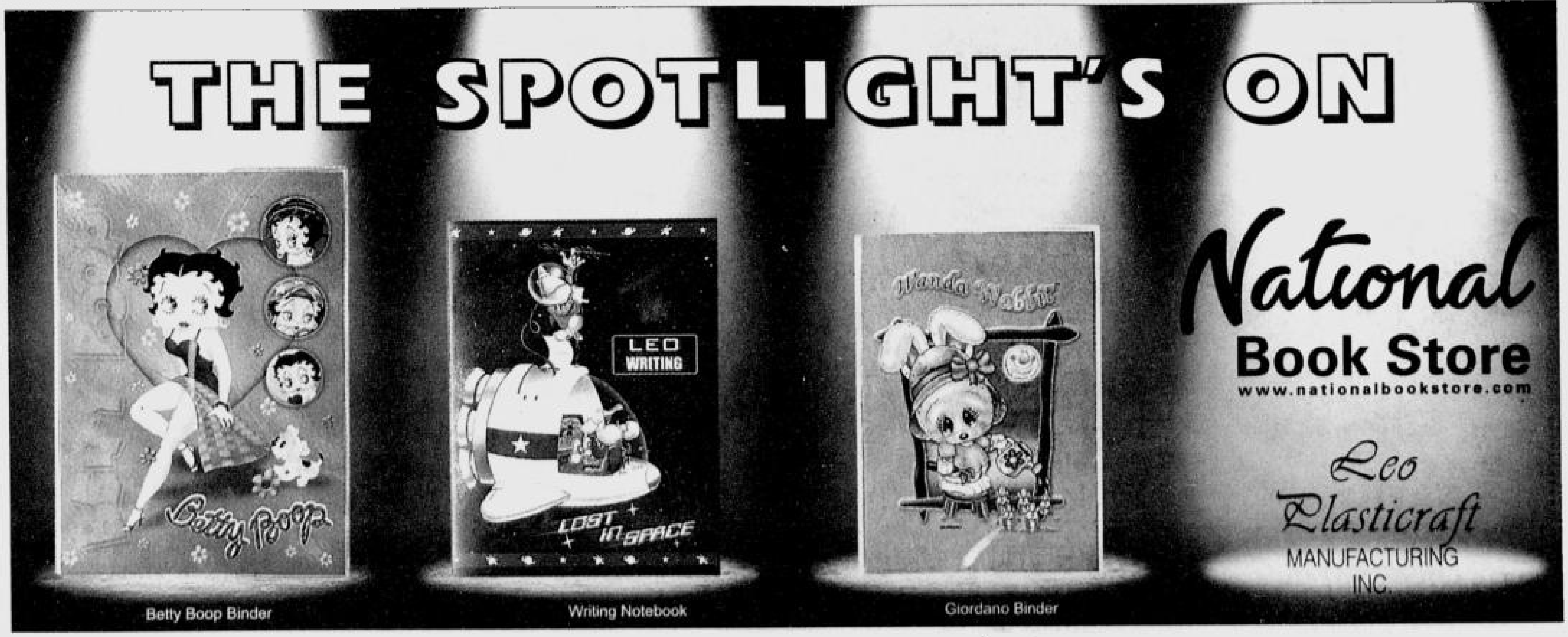
Tingnan ang ilalim ng stove at hanapin ang burner clip.

ORIGINAL CLIP

FAKE CLIP

Mag-ingat sa FAKE. Bago umalis ng tindahan, tiyakin mo muna na ang laman ng box na iuuwi ay ang original Standard Gas Stove na nakita mo.

Ikaw at ang STANDARD®
matibay na ang pinagsamahan



THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON

Betty Boop Binder

Writing Notebook

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Watch what happens

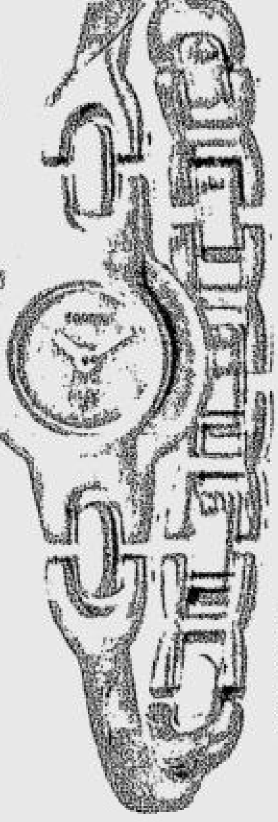
From page F2

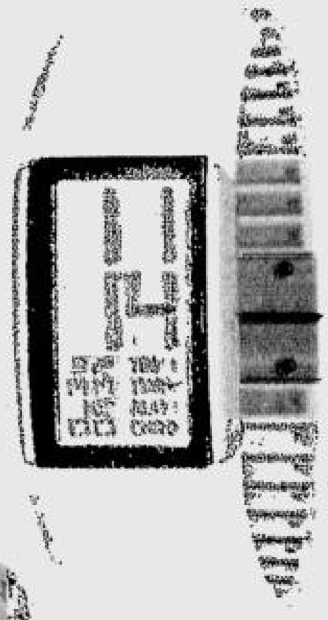
Malice to all

The Malice blue D.I.O.R's engraved blue varnished leather strap or polished stainless bracelet with DC links, is removable with patented system. It features curved sapphire crystal, silver-grey mirror dial, Swiss quartz movement and water resistance to 30 meters.

Starck new look

PHILIPPE Starck and Fossil have teamed up to introduce a new watch line to complement your wardrobe. The collection features 10 new timepieces created by Philippe Starck for Fossil. The strap colors range from black to pastel pink and purple with assorted colored crystals. The collection is available at select department stores, specialty stores and jewelry retailers.





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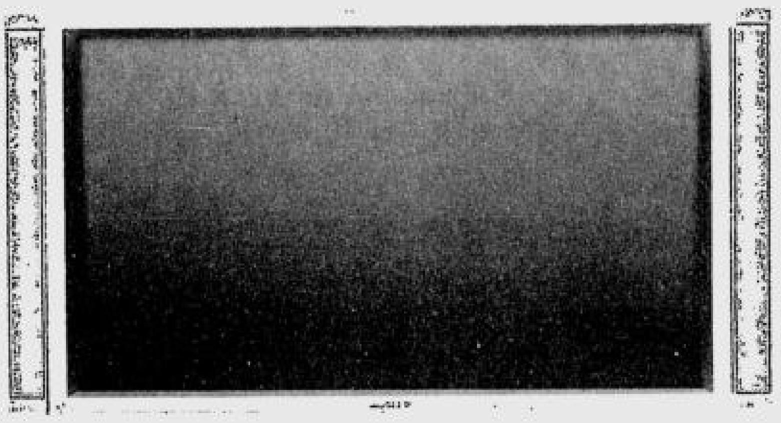

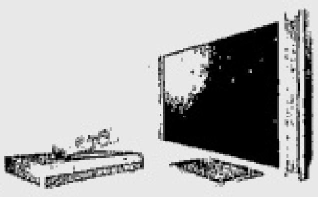

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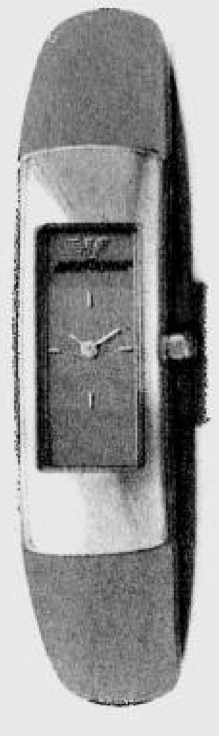
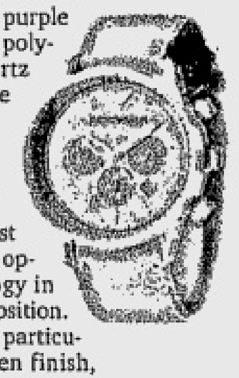
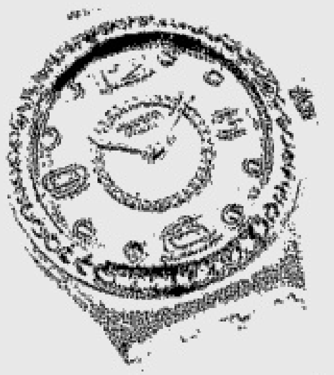


Classic

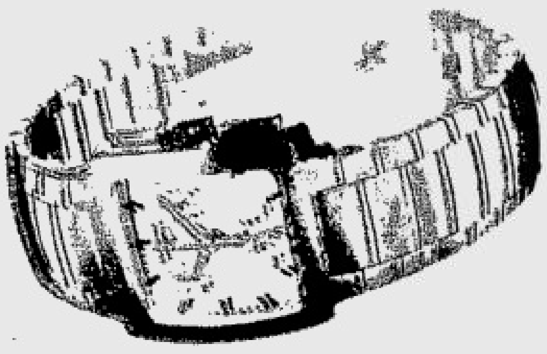
GIORGIO Armani's Classics series for men has three new versions of the round style: a light beige dial with matching leather strap, a dark gray dial with matching canvas strap, and a black dial with matching leather strap. The Color Time series showcases a new rectangular style in three colors: red, purple and black. All straps are made of polyurethane. The watches have quartz movement, personalized steel case backs and are water-resistant.





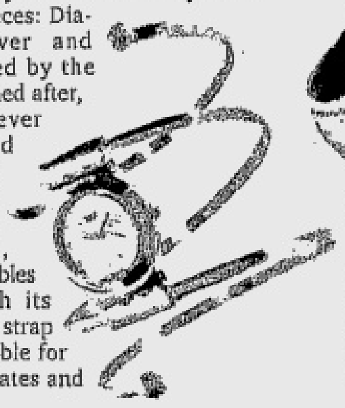
Opposition attracts

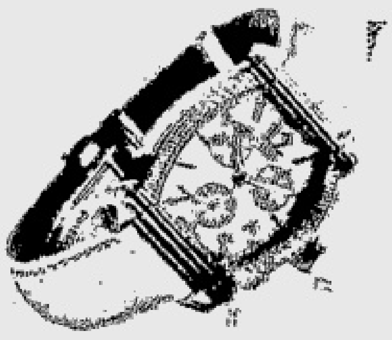
Longines, one of the world's most prestigious timepieces, fuses the opposing ideas of art and technology in coming up with the Longines Opposition. The square-shaped Opposition in particular, features a sleek profile, silken finish, state-of-the-art technology inside and out, and four smoothly rounded angles. Crafted in high-grade stainless steel, it comes in five sizes—ladies', medium, ladies' chronograph, men's and men's chronograph. Available with a silver, blue, gray or black face, its dial bears stamped styled hour markers, raised minute track and skeleton-styled hands.



Spy style

The James Bond Collection, whose first five watches were recently launched in the Philippines by Gift Gate in a star-studded and celebrity filled affair, is highlighted by two of the industry's most anticipated timepieces: Diamonds are Forever and Octopussy. Inspired by the movies they are named after, Diamonds are Forever features a bezel and watch face adorned by Swarovski crystals and a pink multilinked strap, while Octopussy doubles as a bracelet with its golden wraparound strap design. Both available for pre-order at Gift Gates and Swatch Studios.





Pastel Colvmbvs

Charriol's Colvmbvs Tonneau Chrono "Lady Jet Set" in pastel color is an alliance between the couturier's sense of style and the watchmaker's technological expertise.

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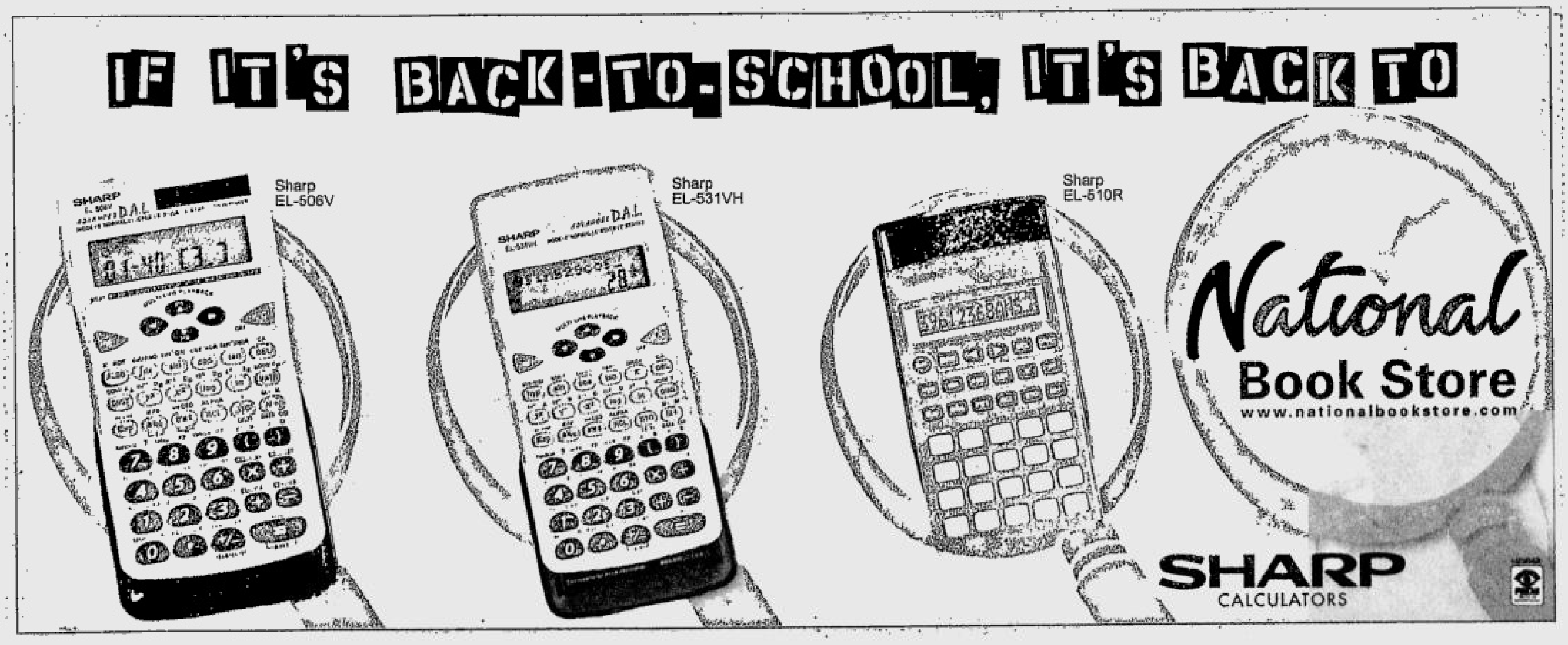

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SHARP CALCULATORS

What to wear in the paradise that's Bora

Fashion shows go beachside as Alcatel's newest and lightest mobile phone, OT511, and Guru Productions present "La Mode Au Board la Mer (Fashion by the Sea)," which features the designs of Sidney Perez-Sio, Bubum Melgar and Ronald Mendoza, at the Hey Jude Bar & Bistro in Boracay.

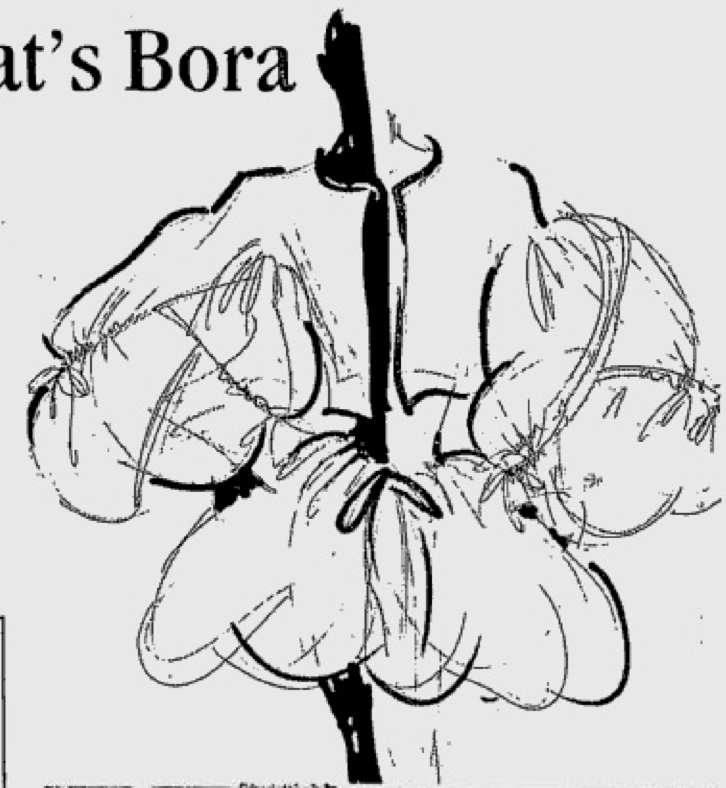
The designers' swimsuit collections will be showcased, with the Alcatel OT511 as its perfect complement, in Boracay. The OT511 is a stylish, functional beach and all-seasons companion with versatile features: polyphonic sound technology, voice memo and advanced gaming capabilities, among others.

Perez-Sio's collections will bare bikinis, one piece swimsuits, tankinis, sarongs and other beachwear that will blend raw island energy with urban sophistication.

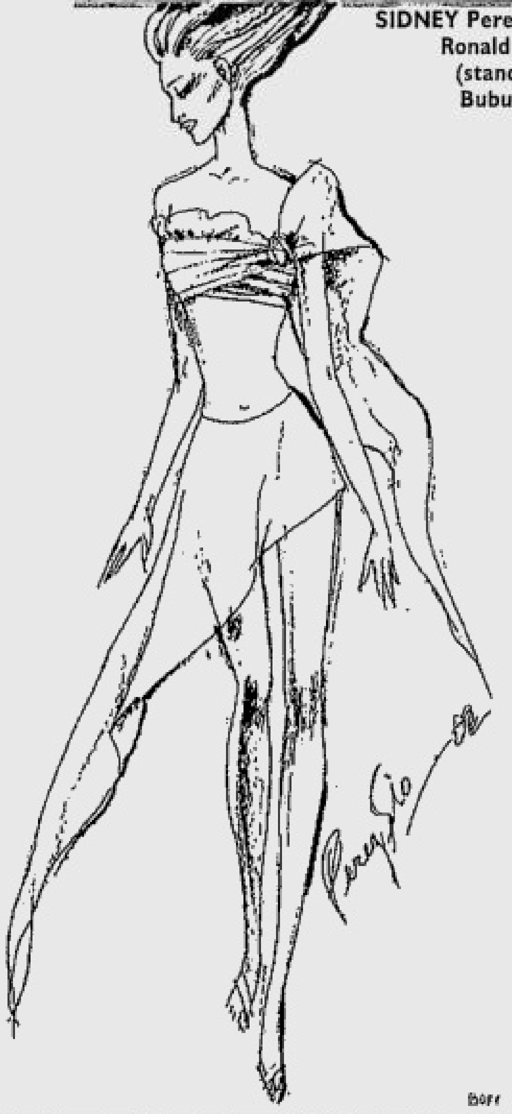
For his part, Mendoza will show swimwear ensembles in a mix of acid and neon colors that will rival the Boracay sun's heat and intensity.

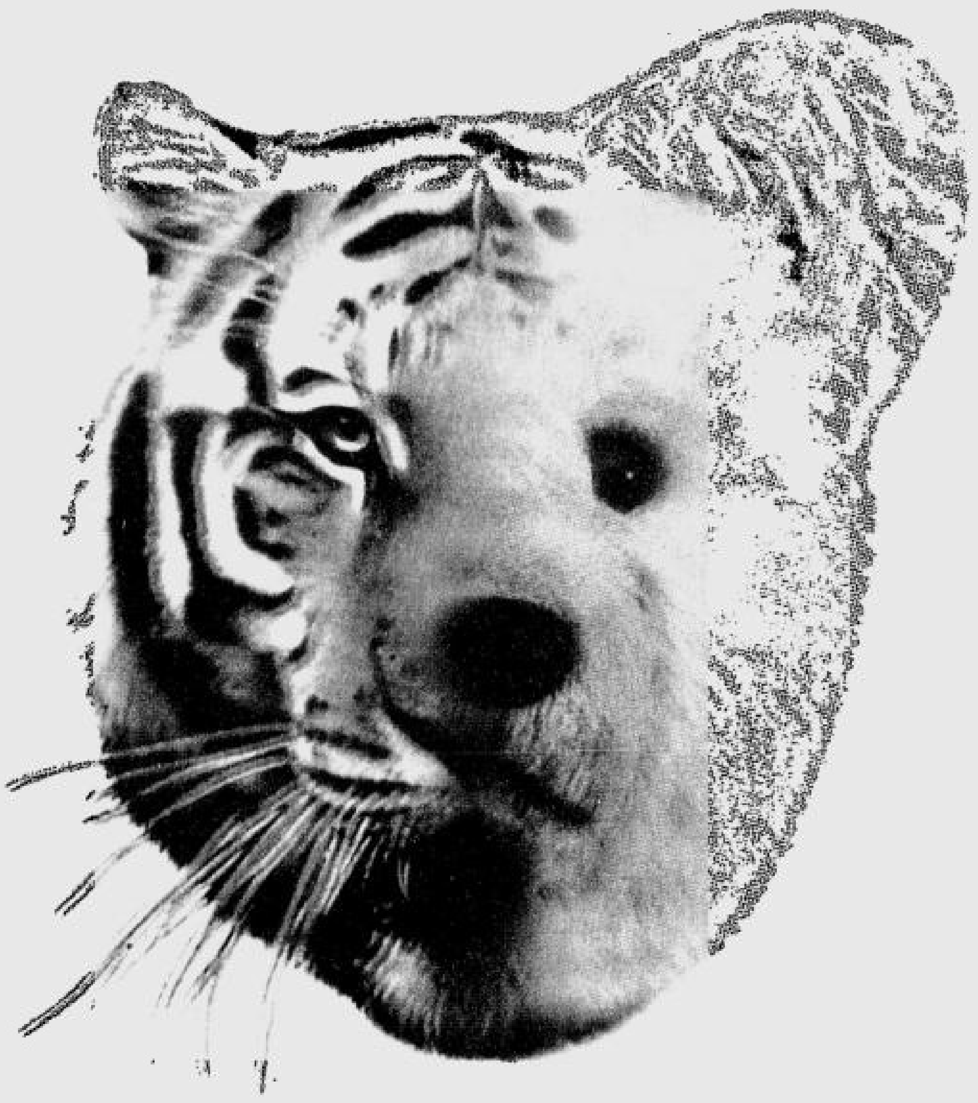
Melgar, who was once lauded by Cable News Network's fashion correspondent Elsa Klench as one of the most respected designers in Philippine couture, will combine the old and the new, the east and the west.

The show will be hosted by actor-commercial model Robin da Rosa and 89.9 dwTM jock Mojo Jojo, and directed by Tweet Alturas, president of Guru Productions, and Monro Romano. The rock band Slapshock will provide the funky live music in the background.



SIDNEY Perez-Sio and Ronald Mendoza (standing), and Bubum Melgar





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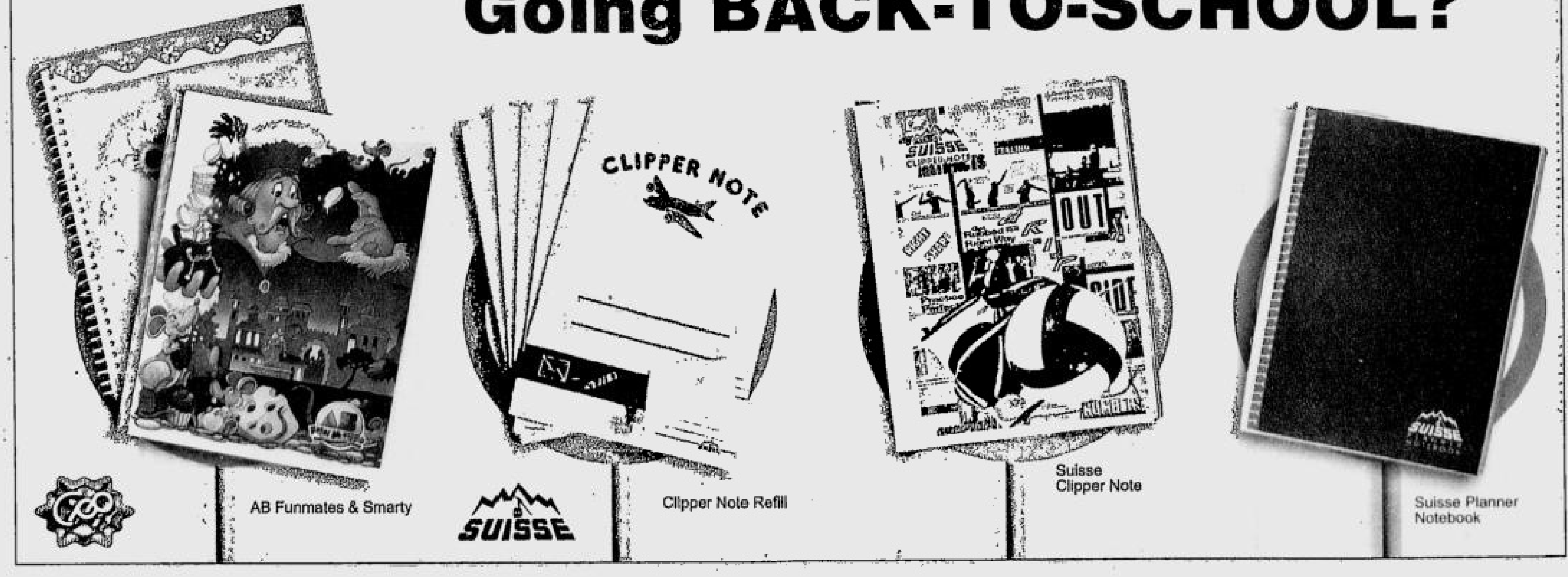

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Zonta dinner-dance tonight

THE ZONTA Club of Manila I, the first Zonta club to be established in the Philippines and in Asia, will celebrate its golden anniversary tonight with a dinner-dance at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila.

The Zonta's officers and directors for Biennium 2002-2003 will be sworn into office. They are Baby Perez Sison, president; Nida Lopez, first vice president; Banjo Dumlao, second vice president; Pilar Puno, recording secretary; Gina Padilla Geraldez, corresponding secretary; Lulu Tesoro Castaneda, treasurer; Isidora Zalamea, assistant treasurer; Lalin Basilio, Mina Gabor, Menchu Pascual and Mel Reyes, directors; Loudette Tapia Tolosa, immediate past president; and Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, parliamentarian.

Also to be inducted are the officers and directors for Biennium 2003-2004: Gina Padilla Geraldez, president; Menchu Pascual, first vice president; Lalin Basilio, second vice president; Arlene Gisbert, recording secretary; Mel C. Reyes, corresponding secretary; Banjo Dumlao, treasurer; Nida Lopez, assistant treasurer; Lulu Tesoro Castañeda, Julita Jalbuena, Santanina Rasul and Fely Umandap, directors; Baby Perez Sison, immediate past president and Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, Parliamentarian.

Zonta International is a worldwide service organization of women executives working to advance the status of women.

CLOCKWISE. Menchu Pascual, Banjo Dumlao, Nonie Basilio, Lalin Basilio, president Baby Perez Sison, Dory Zalamea, Lulu Castañeda, Nida Lopez. Center, from left, Pie Puno and Gina Geraldez

Special travel program from Samsonite, PAL

SAMSONITE and Philippine Airlines (PAL) have joined hands to launch a promotion that will give travelers a chance to see exciting locales without straining their budget.

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Until May 31, every P5,000 minimum purchase of Samsonite products entitles PALSmiles and Mabuhay Club members to 500 credit miles. Every succeeding P1,000 purchase gives the customer another 100 points. Nonmembers automatically get free membership for every P5,000 purchase. Marked down items, special discounts and other promotional efforts of Samsonite are not included in this program.

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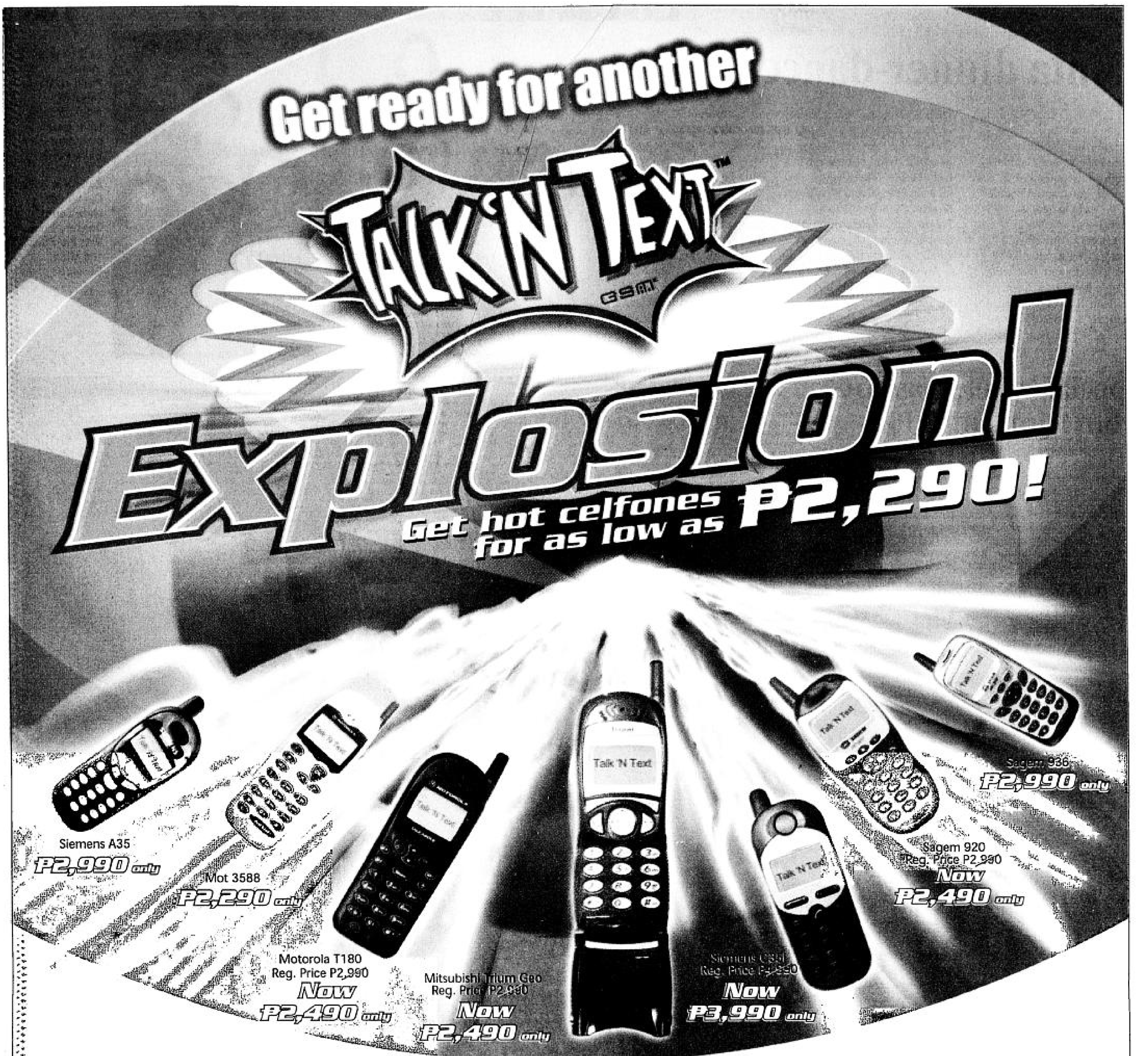

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Fernando **Head Office Showroom** Marcos Highway, Pasig City **SM Megamall** 5th Level , Bldg. B (Supermarket side) **SM Centerpoint** 337 3rd Flr. SM Centerpoint Sta. Mesa, Manila **SM City-North Edsa** G/F Car Park Plaza, SM City North Edsa QC **SM Southmall** 2/F SM Cyberzone **SM City-Manila** Level 4, SM City Manila Concepcion St., cor. Arroceros & San Marcelino Sts., Manila **Festival Mall-Alabang** 4th Level, Festival Supermall Filinvest Alabang, MM **SM Fairview** 2nd Level, SM Fairview (near cinema) Quirino Hi-way cor. Regalado Sts **SEMICON** Rockwell Powerplant Mall **SEMICON** SM Davao **WINTELECOM: Quickcom: SM City Iloilo** (soon to open) 2005 2nd Level, SM City Iloilo, Sen. 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World JS Citimall, Ilustre St., Davao City **SM Davao** 314 SM City Davao, Quimpo Blvd., cor. Tulip Drive Ave., Eco West Drive, Brgy. Matina, Davao City **Session Marketing** 35 Session Rd., Baguio City **BCM 1** G/F Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City **BCM 2** 2/F Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City **BCM 3** 3/F Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City **Mactan** Pajo, Lapu Lapu City **White Gold** North Reclamation Area, Cebu **Prince** Alang-Alang, Mandaue City **Super Metro** Estancia Ibabao, Mandaue City **Country Mall** Banilad St., Cebu City **Colonnade** Colon St., Cebu City **Gaisano Main** Colon St., Cebu City **Southmall** cor. Colon-Leon Kilat Sts., Cebu **Tabunok** Tabunok, Talisay, Cebu City **Llanas** Llanas Discount City Parian, Calamba, Laguna **Walter Mart Calamba** Real St., Brgy. Real, Calamba, Laguna **Walter Mart Sta. Rosa** San Lorenzo cor. Balibago Rd., Brgy. Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna **Walter Mart Sta. Rosa Exhibit** Extreme Exhibit, Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna **Fiesta Mall 1-Lipa** G/F Bldg. A, Fiesta World Mall, Brgy. Marouy, Lipa City, Batangas **ADI Big Ben** 2/F Big Ben Complex, J.P. Laurel Highway, Lipa City, Batangas **Savers Mall Booth** G/F Savers Mall, McArthur Hi-way, Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga **Savers Mall Shoppe** 3/F Savers Mall, McArthur Hi-way, Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga **Cash & Carry Makati** Filmore St., cor. Buendia, Makati City **Waltermart Makati** 790 Pasong Tamo, Makati City **Pioneer Center** 8006 Pioneer St., cor. United & Brixton Sts., Pasig City **Waltermart Dasmariñas** 30 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Bo. Burol, Dasmariñas, Cavite **Cherry Foodarama** Congressional Ave., cor. Pangilinan Brgy. Bahay Toro, Quezon City **Shangri-la** EDSA cor. 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Felix Ave., & Marcos Highway, Cainta, Rizal **Future Link** 112 Panay Ave., Futurelink Bldg., Quezon City **Tutuban Center** Tutuban Center Quad 1 Makati City **EXCELL/E-PHONE: SM West** CPP 149 SM City North EDSA, Quezon City **SM Centerpoint** 325 3/F SM Centerpoint Sta. Mesa, Manila **SM Southmall** 2081 2/F SM Southmall Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City **SM Sucat** 213 3/F SM Sucat Dra. A. Santos Ave., Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City **Grand Central** G/F Ever Gotesco, Grand Central, Monumento, Caloocan City

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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

A not-so-ugly duckling morphs into a glamorous swan

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Mike Alquinto

IT'S hard to imagine that Pia Guanio had once favored grungy outfits over slinky attire. Blessed with a slim build and a luscious pair of runway legs, the dusky ABS-CBN broadcaster seems right at home in the tight, barely-there clothes she usually wears on and off cam.

Yet for a time Pia covered her whistle-bait figure and slender gams in loose band shirts, faded or torn denims and a bulky pair of Doc Martens. That was back in college when she was taking up broadcasting at the University of the Philippines.

SINGULAR STYLE

These days, the 26-year-old babe can be seen in tubes, midriffs, miniskirts, hip-hugging slacks, fringed belts and strappy high heels while regularly dishing out infotainment via such shows as "Alas Singko y Medya" and "Review Night." She recently joined "MTB," the network's once-controversial daily noontime show, as one of the hosts.

"It had a lot to do with the friends I used to hang out with," says Pia of her grungy phase. "Back then I didn't care so much how I looked as long as I felt comfortable. Besides, I was dating a guy who sang in a band."

Comfort and the confidence to pull off a certain look have always guided Pia when it comes to fashion. Her independent streak had been evident at a young age. "I used to fight with my mom over what clothes to wear," she recalls in between sips of cold water by the Mandarin's poolside.

Pia's preference for shorts, pants and T-shirts never failed to drive her fashionable mother crazy. "I was a tomboy then. I have an older brother and I was quite close to my male cousins on my dad's side. Since I was one of the boys, dresses got in the way."

Same rules

Pia still lives by the same rules, albeit applied differently, now that she has morphed into an engaging TV personality. She goes for clothes with classic and tapered lines that hug the body without restraining her movements.

She could slip into lace, eyelets and fringed hemlines with ease. But frou-frou skirts, pleated pants and overly romantic blouses with layers upon layers of ruffles have no room in her closet.

"I'm not really a very trendy dresser," she confesses. "In fact, I loved bellbottom pants even before they became fashionable again. I'm a hippie chick who should have been born earlier."

Thanks to a number of clothes sponsors, Pia is able to keep herself updated. She doesn't buy fashion magazines, and only gets to scan Vogue and In Style while waiting for Henry Caliyag to do her hair. Of course, it helps to see Sarah Jessica Parker and her "Sex and the City" costars wearing the latest.

Thank goodness, too, Pia has chucked her trusty pair of Doc Martens in favor of open-toed footwear. It would have been a pity not to show off those pretty feet. But again, she shuns anything beaded or dripping with ribbons, faux flowers and pearls.

A NOT/ p.G6

CHINESE CONNECTION. Pia Guanio looks at home amid antiques from old Cathay. She chooses a blouse-and-skirt ensemble from Freeway for this photo.

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Indoor theme park promo and bridal bazaar

GOINGS ON

DREAM Town's "Fiesta Price Off" promo gives a 50-percent discount on all single ride tickets until today. Dream Town is an entertainment center and indoor theme park set in a magical European village. It relives the adventures of a little country boy named Timmy who rescued Princess Sonia, heir of Dream Town, from the evil Mordred the Magician. The rides and attractions recap Timmy's exciting escapades. Dream Town is located at the 3/L Robinsons Place Manila.

BAZAAR. Karl Edward International will hold the "Bells and Brides Bazaar" on June 1 and 2, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at the NBC Tent, The bazaar not only offers wedding fashion needs but also gifts. It includes the latest in fashion accessories, swimwear, water sports equipment, leather goods, fine wine, home necessities and recreational equipment at rock-bottom prices. The bazaar also has a gourmet spread for shoppers who wish to buy homemade goodies.

INTRAMUROS EVENT. The Intramuros Administration presents "Flores de Mayo" tonight at 6. Young models will join the procession wearing gowns designed by Lito Perez of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines. This year's *hermano mayor* is Philippine Tourism Authority administrator Nixon Kua while the *hermanas mayores* are restaurant owner Erlinda Sunico and actress Cristina Gonzales.

GOOD-LUCK WORKSHOP. Frances L. Gloria, hypno-therapist and higher consciousness lecturer, will conduct a workshop on "Attracting Good Luck," 1:30-5:30 p.m. tomorrow at Room 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Legazpi Village, Greenbelt, Makati City. Call Inner Mind Development Institute at 810-7245, 892-6806 or telefax 815-9890, or Frances Gloria at 824-7586 or (0917) 364-8090.

GLOBE PROMO. Globe Handyphone has issued a limited edition of "Star Wars Episode II" prepaid call cards. The special edition cards come in three designs—Anakin Skywalker, Obi-wan Kenobi and Padme Amidala—and in P300 denomination. As a bonus treat, each "Episode II" call card entitles the buyer to a free Jollibee cone twirl. The promo runs until July 15, with the offer redeemable within 60 days from the end of the promo period.

GAY CONTEST. The Outlet Yard hosts the "Ms Flores de Mayo 2002," a gay beauty contest, today. Cash and gift certificates await the lucky winners. The Outlet Yard is at 1480 Quezon Ave. Its retail stores such as Maldita, P99 Store, Dickies, Anonymous and Penshoppe sell the latest fashion wear at factory prices.

ROBINSONS PROMO. Robinsons Place Novaliches is treating its loyal patrons and customers to a big raffle promo June 4-Nov. 30. Dubbed "Pa-Lancer MX, Pa Premyo, Panalo!," the promotion offers a brand-new Mitsubishi Lancer MX plus 25 gift certificates worth P5,000 as consolation prizes, tax-free. Call 632-7672, 633-7641 to -90 local 175 or 176.

SPECIAL PROMO. The Avon Special Edition Trend Line makeup debuts with a Trend Line Prizes and Surprises Promo.

Avon customers, franchise dealers (FDs) and certified beauty counselors (CBCs) can win exciting cash prizes and surprises. Every P250 worth of purchase of any Trend Line Special Edition products—lipstick, powder blush, eye shadow, pressed powder and refill, dual powder foundation and cake foundation—give both the customer and the FD/CBC two chances of winning, first in the instant scratch and next in the grand raffle.

For the Instant Win Game, a customer may get Trend Line shirts, discounts on Avon products and instant cash prizes of up to P100,000. For the raffle, eight Piaggio Vespa Mopeds worth P70,000 each will be given away to four winning customers and four FD/CBC.

Promo ends today for Bacolod, Iloilo, Roxas, Dumaguete, San Carlos, Antique and Kalibo outlets but the deadline for dropping of entries is June 15. For all other outlets, promo period is June 1-31, and deadline for dropping of entries is July 19. Grand draw will be on July 26 at the Avon Taft branch.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS. If you apply for a BPI Express Credit Card by June 25 and your application is approved, you get a chance to win P100,000 in a weekly raffle.

The BPI Express Credit Card has a low monthly finance charge and allows the cardholder to avail of the cash price on appliance purchased with the use of the card. It is also the only credit card accepted in all Makro outlets. The new Petron-BPI MasterCard is a full-service motorist card with a two percent fuel rebate, free 24-hour towing service and roadside assistance, and discounts on Petron lubricants and services.

Apply for a BPI Express Credit Card, Petron-BPI MasterCard or BPI MasterCard at the nearest BPI or BPI Family Bank branch. Depositors of BPI or BPI Family Bank Metro Manila branches can also apply by calling Express Phone 89-100.

FESTIVAL. Bayview Park Hotel will hold "Celebrate Philippines!," a 20-day arts and crafts festival. Featured are woodworks from Ilocos, tapestry and handloom textiles from the Mountain Province, brassware and Muslim crafts from Mindanao, and fashion accessories made from native materials. The festival also features the art exhibit "Two Fishermen" by painter E.R. Tagle. Call 820-7879/1570.

GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSE. The Goethe Institut Inter Nationes Manila-German Cultural Center is offering German language courses for beginners and advanced students June 10-Sept. 8. The Goethe Institut is at 687 Aurora Blvd., New Manila, QC. Call 722-4671/73 or fax 722-4673.

MEDITATION CLASS. Using a modern Christian approach, Amy P. Cavosora is holding "A Course in Miracles," a psycho-spiritual seminar. The Level 1 meditation class will teach proper posture and breathing and concentration. Guided meditations and healing are also given by appointment. Classes are scheduled on June 16, 2:30-5:30 p.m., and June 29, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Call 925-2795 or (0917) 608-9625.

SEMINAR. A.T. Valino Public Relations Firm is holding a seminar on "How to Win and Invest in the Philippine Stock Market" on July 20, at the Mondragon House, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Lecturer is Irving Ackerman, president of I. Ackerman Inc., one of the country's top stockholders, who will discuss the basic tenets of stock market investments. Ackerman will give tips on which stocks are doing well and which show potential in the market. Call 728-5690 or (0916) 827-9111.

Herbs add spice to food and life

"PESTO, tomato and cilantro salad, with jalapeño peppers and vinaigrette. Lemongrass cooler, Vietnamese noodles with mint leaves," says Diane Malonzo, business development officer of Leisure Farms Tagaytay. She is enumerating her favorite herbed dishes.

Pesto sauce has basil leaves; lemongrass cooler is a light, refreshing tea made from lemongrass. Cilantro, or coriander, is a citrus-like-tasting herb. These herbs, and many more, have made the gastronomic adventure in this country more satisfying. "The Filipino palate is more sophisticated, with all this fusion of western and eastern cooking," says Diane, a passionate and sophisticated eater who cannot stand sweet spaghetti or anything *nilaga*.

"They might not know herbs very well yet," she says, "but you tell them it's in this and that, then they'll know what it is. There's oregano in pasta, did you know that?" Uh, no. Most people might not know that either. Probably the only popular herb in Pinoy food is the bay leaf, commonly known as the laurel leaf, used all the time in *adobo*.

"Herbs used to be a gourmet thing," Diane says. Now they are widely used to replace artificial products in cooking, to add flavor without adding calories, killing the dictum, "if it tastes good, it must be bad for you."

Though the herbs' most popular and satisfying use is in cuisine, herbs have gained a general appeal. Diane points out aromatherapy, among other herbal uses. "Going back to basics," Diane points out. It's all part of that nature wave.

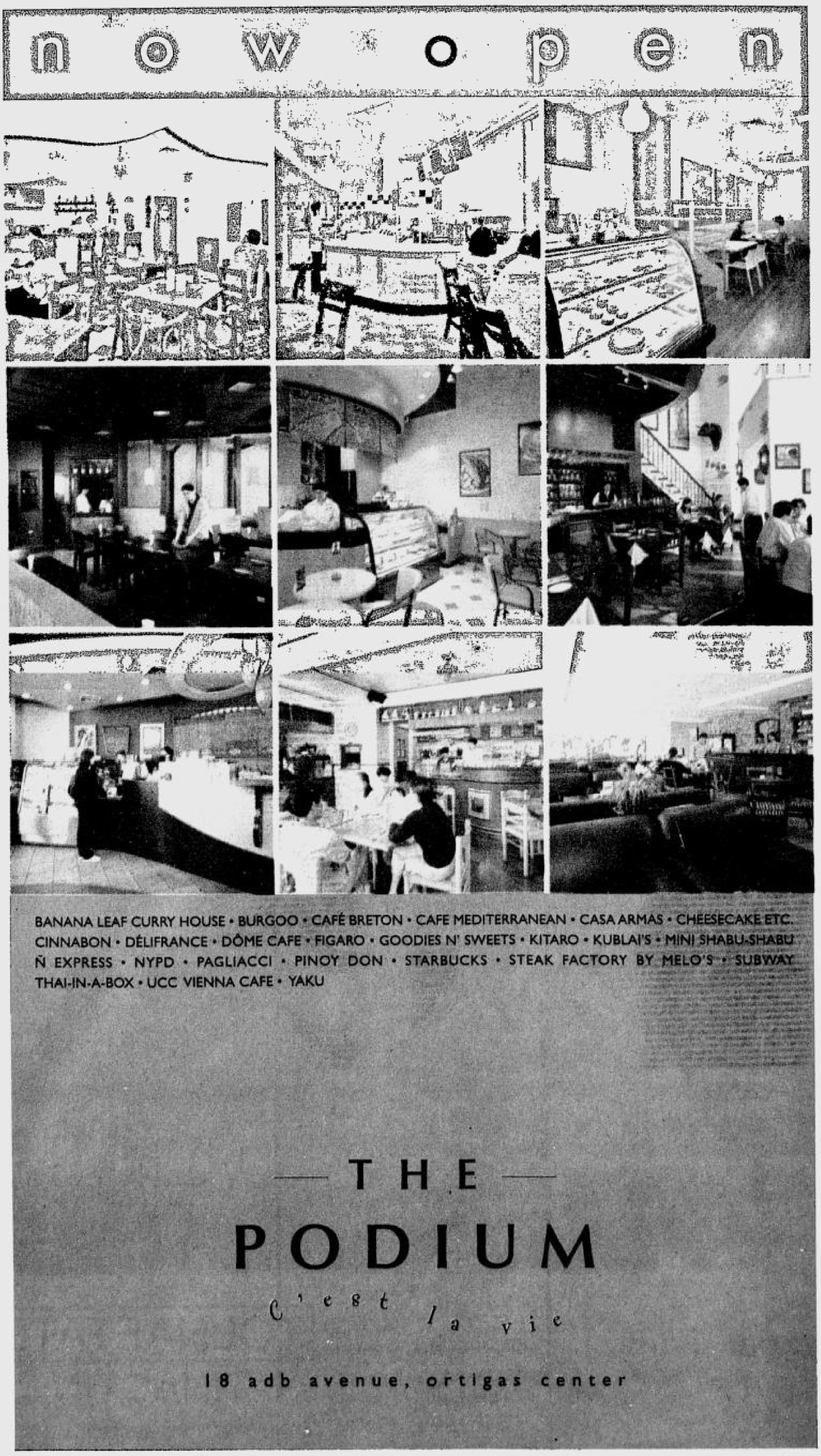
Back to basics indeed, just like Leisure Farms, a hobby farming community, which now has a plot of herbs in its Demo Farms because "it's the kind of thing our clients would want to grow in their own gardens," Diane says.

After all, it is only in nature that what tastes good or feels good is most probably good for you. In Leisure Farms, people farm because they like to. And they love herbs because they make food taste better.

Leisure Farms grows herbs such as basil, which is most popular in pesto sauce. It's an incredibly fragrant leaf, and thus a wonderful air freshener, which Diane discovered while in a car after bringing home a box of basil from Leisure Farms Tagaytay.

Also grown there is coriander (or Chinese parsley or cilantro), an herb popular in Mexican and South American dishes; lemongrass and the onion-tasting chives, which is used commonly as garnish and sauce-flavoring. Also popular are mint, parsley, dill, oregano, rosemary, sage, tarragon, thyme and marjoram.

Leisure Farms Tagaytay is a development project of Landco Pacific Corp.



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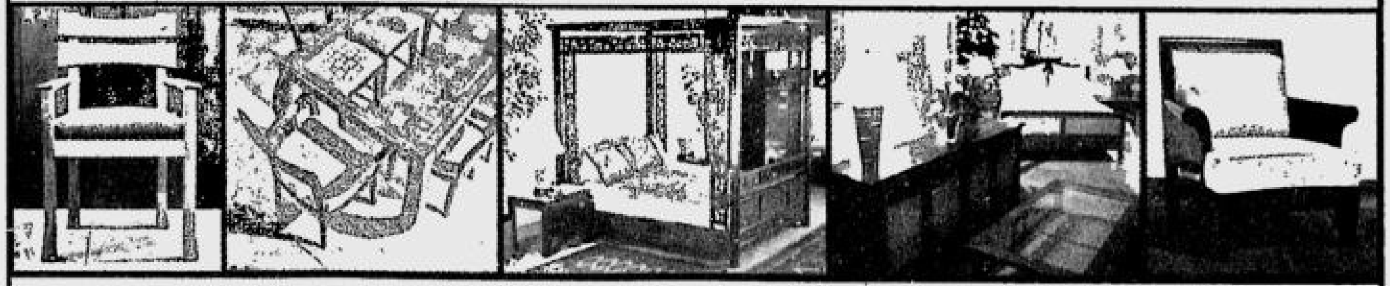

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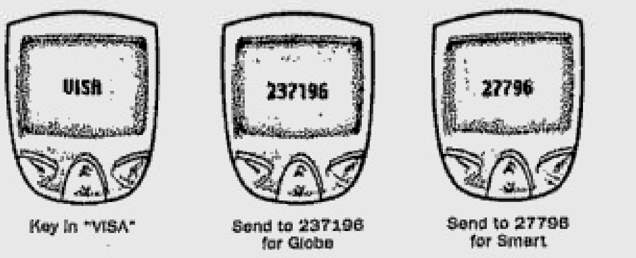

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RICHARD Tann performs with Glamourous models.

TIM Yap, Amanda Carpo, L'Oréal PR manager Leica Carpo and Jonjon Rufino

Scent for the glamour-prone

THE LAUNCH of Glamourous, the new Ralph Lauren scent for women, at the Enterprise Center brought together Manila movers dressed as their favorite glamorous icons. Richard Tann sang standards such as "La Vie En Rose," which set a glamorous ambience for the evening.

The Glamourous Kit given to the guests contained little glamorous things—a string of pearls, a little powder puff, gold dust, a pair of Jackie O shades and a bottle of Glamourous.

Lauren has chosen actress Penelope Cruz to be the spokesperson for the new scent worldwide.

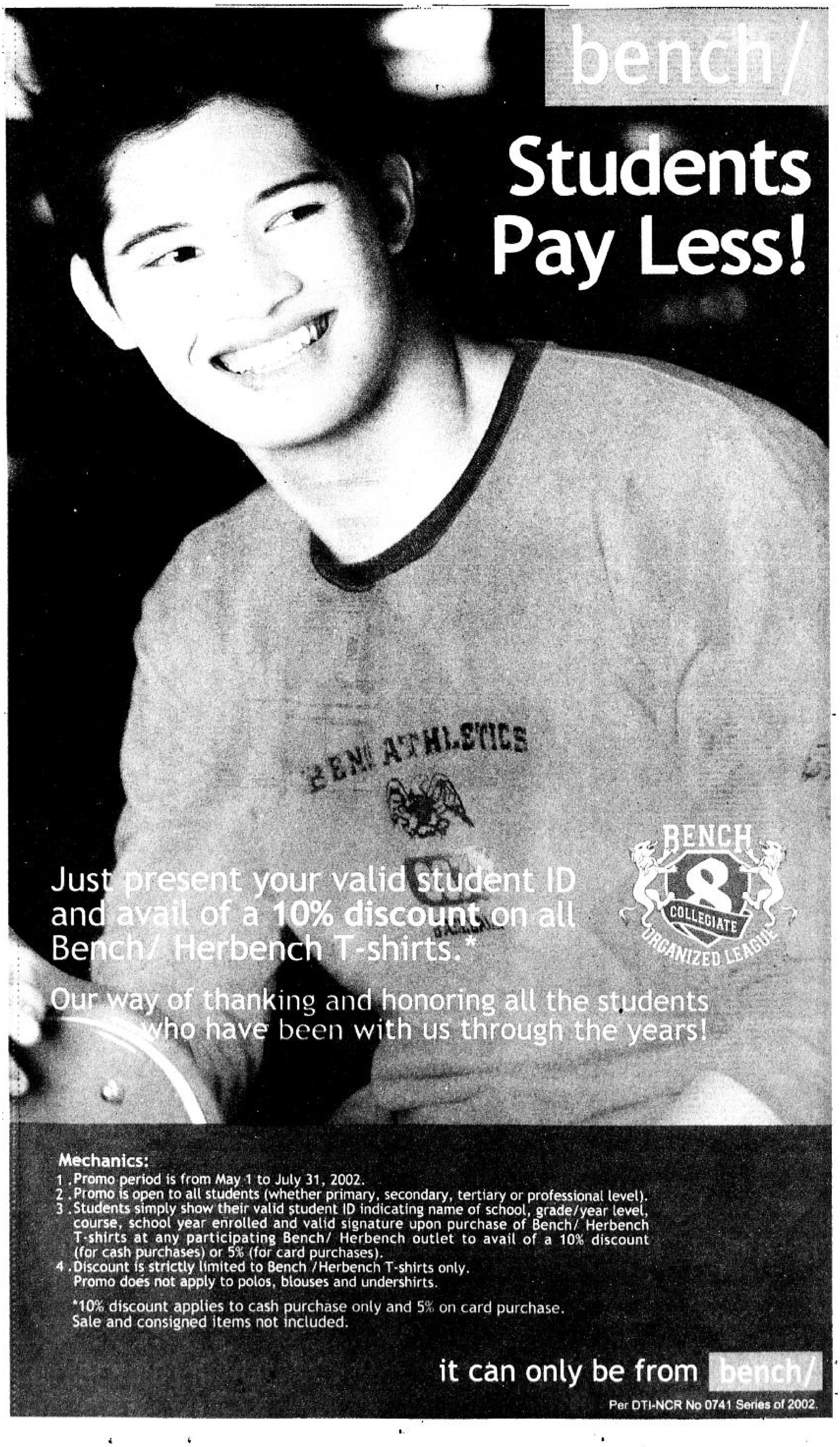
Glamourous is an extravagant floral-tinged perfume that evokes luxurious textures. It is Ralph Lauren's most sophisticated fragrance to date.

L'ORÉAL's managing director Paul-Henri Duillet presents the latest fragrance

HENRI Calayag of H salon and assistant product manager Karla Ermita

NEW SHOE BUZZ

The Nike Airwalk's new collection introduces the Verus technology, the latest Impact Control System designed specifically for action sports. There's increased sensitivity incorporated in the sole, which absorbs shock and enhances performance.



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Mechanics:
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2 . Promo is open to all students (whether primary, secondary, tertiary or professional level).
3 . Students simply show their valid student ID indicating name of school, grade/year level, course, school year enrolled and valid signature upon purchase of Bench/ Herbench T-shirts at any participating Bench/ Herbench outlet to avail of a 10% discount (for cash purchases) or 5% (for card purchases).
4 . Discount is strictly limited to Bench /Herbench T-shirts only. Promo does not apply to polos, blouses and undershirts.

*10% discount applies to cash purchase only and 5% on card purchase. Sale and consigned items not included.

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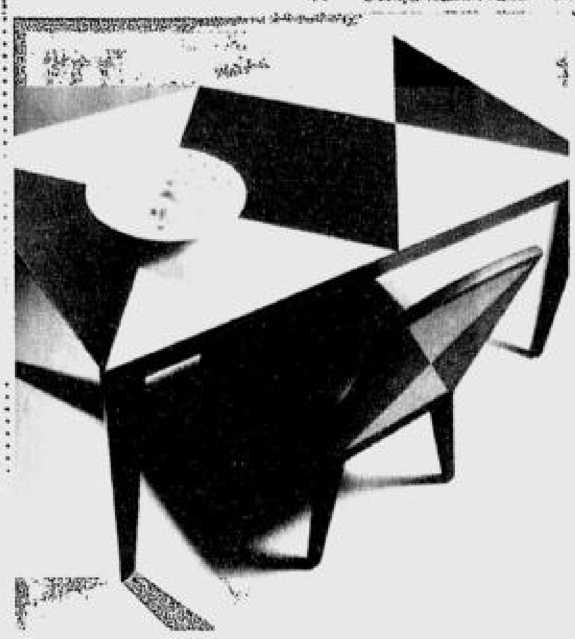
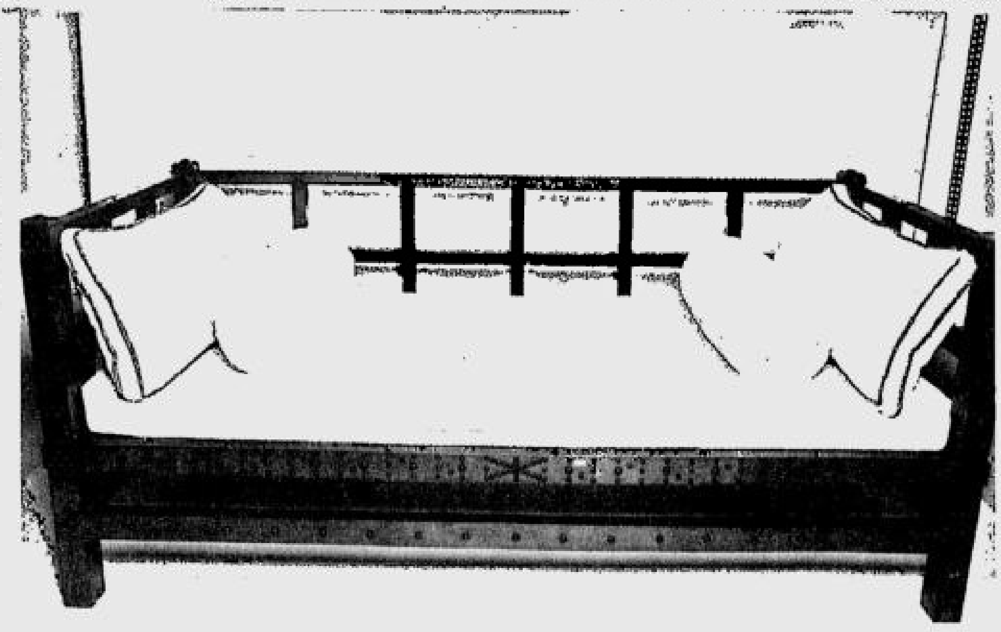
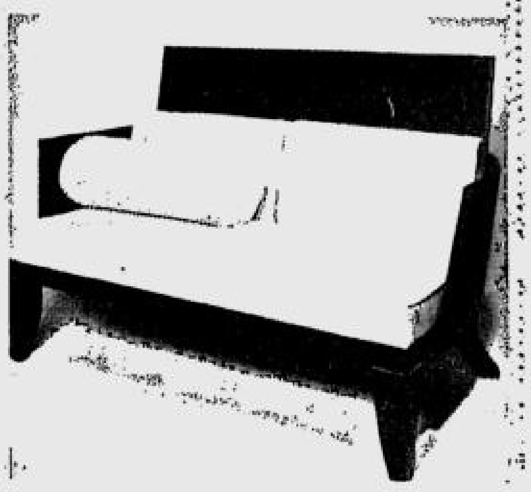
Per DTI-NCR No 0741 Series of 2002.



PICASSO loveseat in solid wood and veneer



MANUEL Conde daybed in solid wood and fabric



PICASSO loveseat in solid wood and fabric

Furniture that's the stuff of legend

From page G8

uses contrasting veneers to set off the stand from the shelves' frame. A circular etagere made of laminated wood, which also belongs to the Dali line, is sure to provide even the most staid living room with an ideal focal point.

Not a few first-time customers have mistaken Legends' pieces for imported brands. The store has a factory in Quezon City. Actually, the company was born two years ago out of its owners' desire to sell world-class furniture at reasonable prices. Richard Reynante and Jun Matias often stumbled upon locally made furniture during their travels abroad.

"We were so frustrated that such beautiful products were beyond the reach of most Filipinos," says Reynante. "We initially thought of buying them, but we soon realized that it wasn't a feasible idea to buy something at four times its original price."

Hobby

Through a small group of furniture makers, the two started designing and making their furniture. At the same time, the enterprising partners were also into the building and selling of houses. Clients invariably asked them what furniture pieces would go well with a certain house. What started out as a hobby soon became a full-time venture.

"Friends started buying whatever furniture we made," says Reynante. "We felt it was time to turn it into a business." The Manuel Conde collection, one of their first designs before Padilla came onboard and the only one dedicated to a Filipino star, is still displayed in the showroom. The daybed with hard, masculine lines stands out because of the use of rivets.

"Richard designed it because I wanted a *papag*," says Matias. "Our designs, however, are rather limited so we got Val as our consultant to give us directions. We're open to exporting our furniture abroad, but not anytime soon."

Of course, Legends won't be complete without collections inspired by more Filipino icons. The duo plans to come out with pieces inspired by Dolphy, FPJ and other local greats. A Panday chair? A Facifica Falayfay dresser? Now, these are two items really worth looking forward to.

Email the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

PICASSO dining chair in solid wood, veneer and leather

LEGENDS' Jun Matias and Richard Reynante

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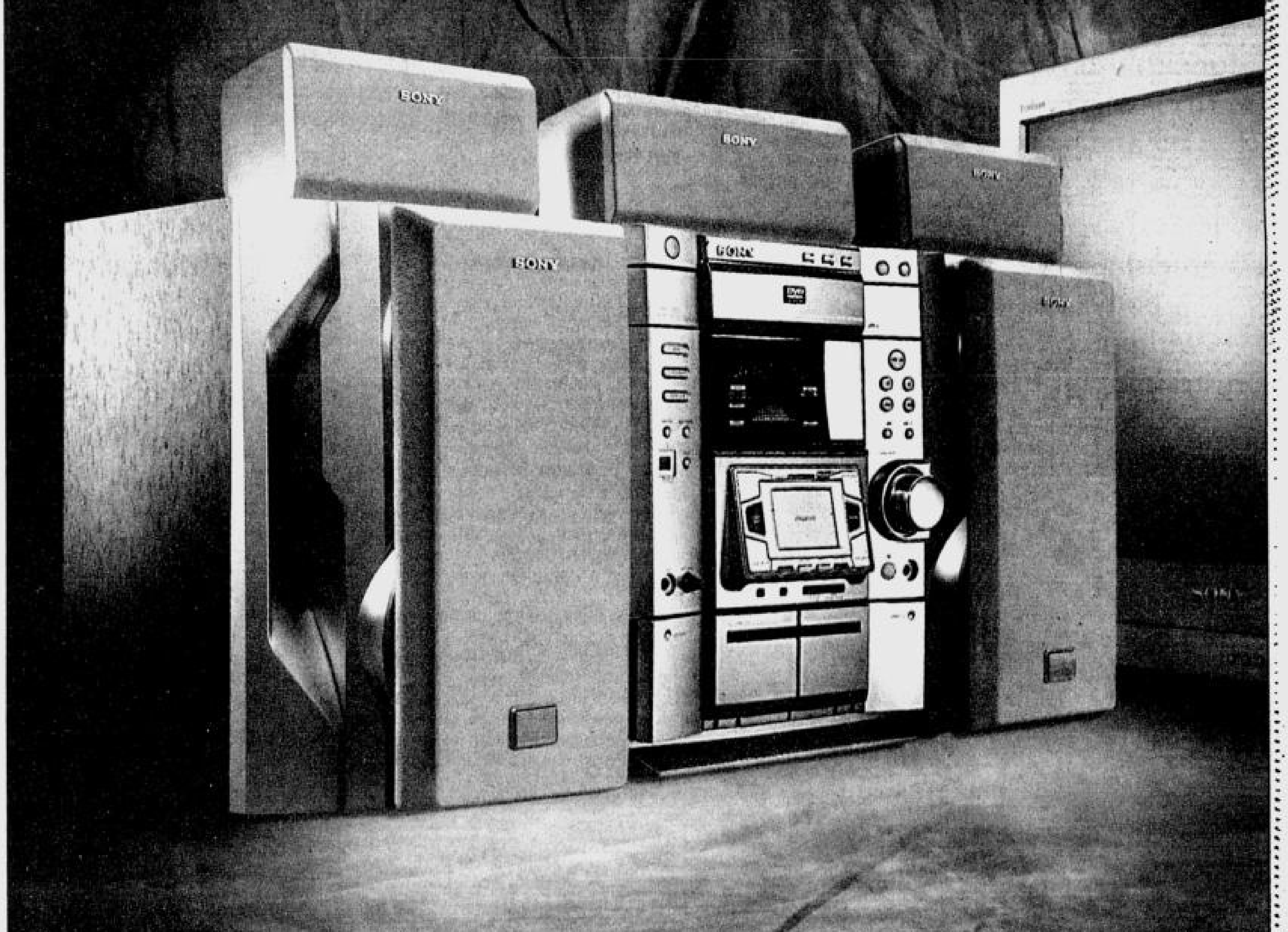

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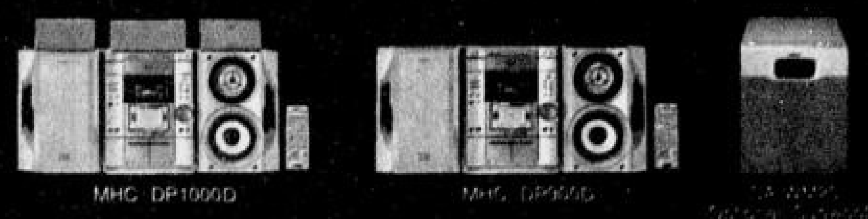

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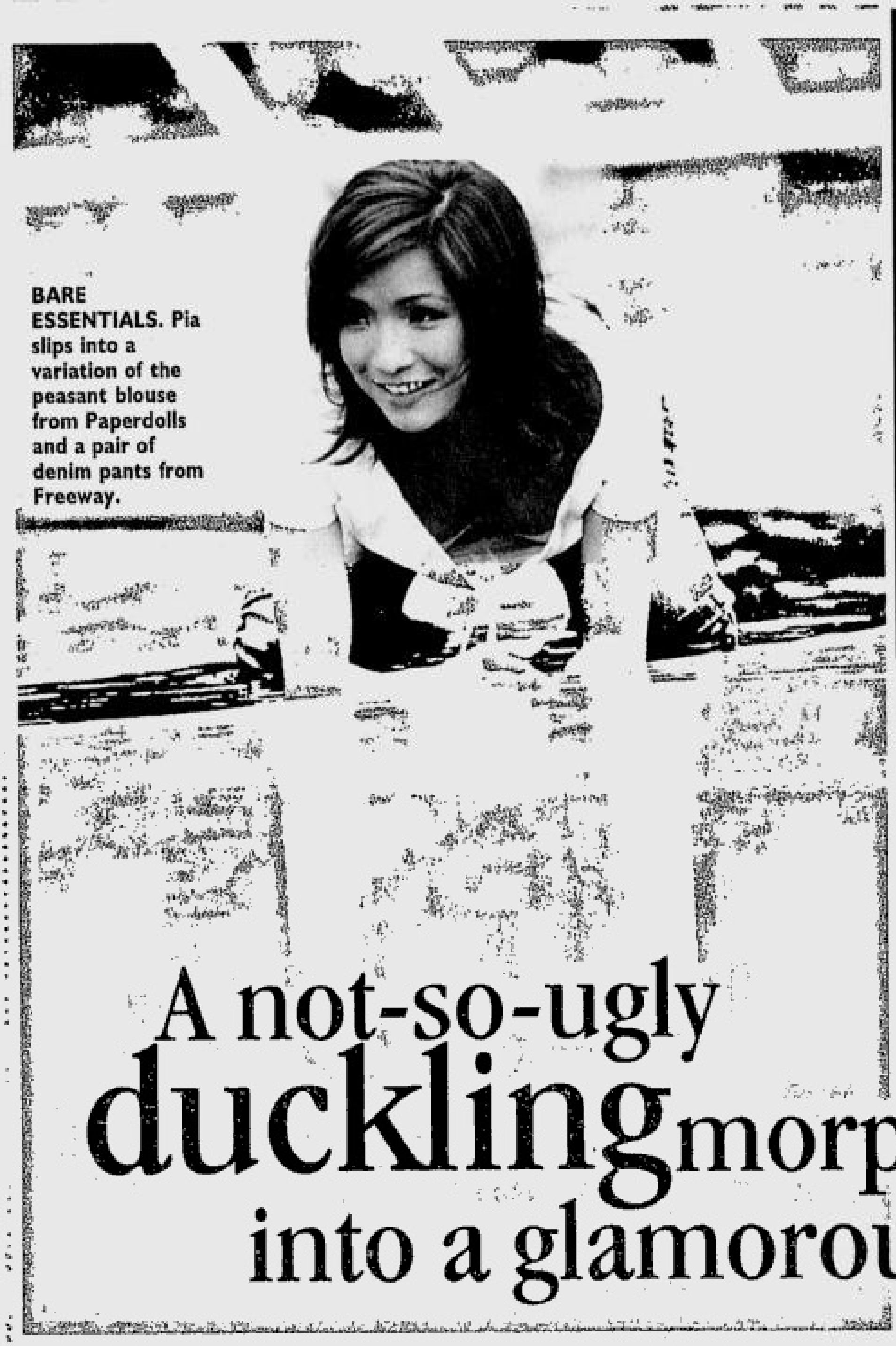
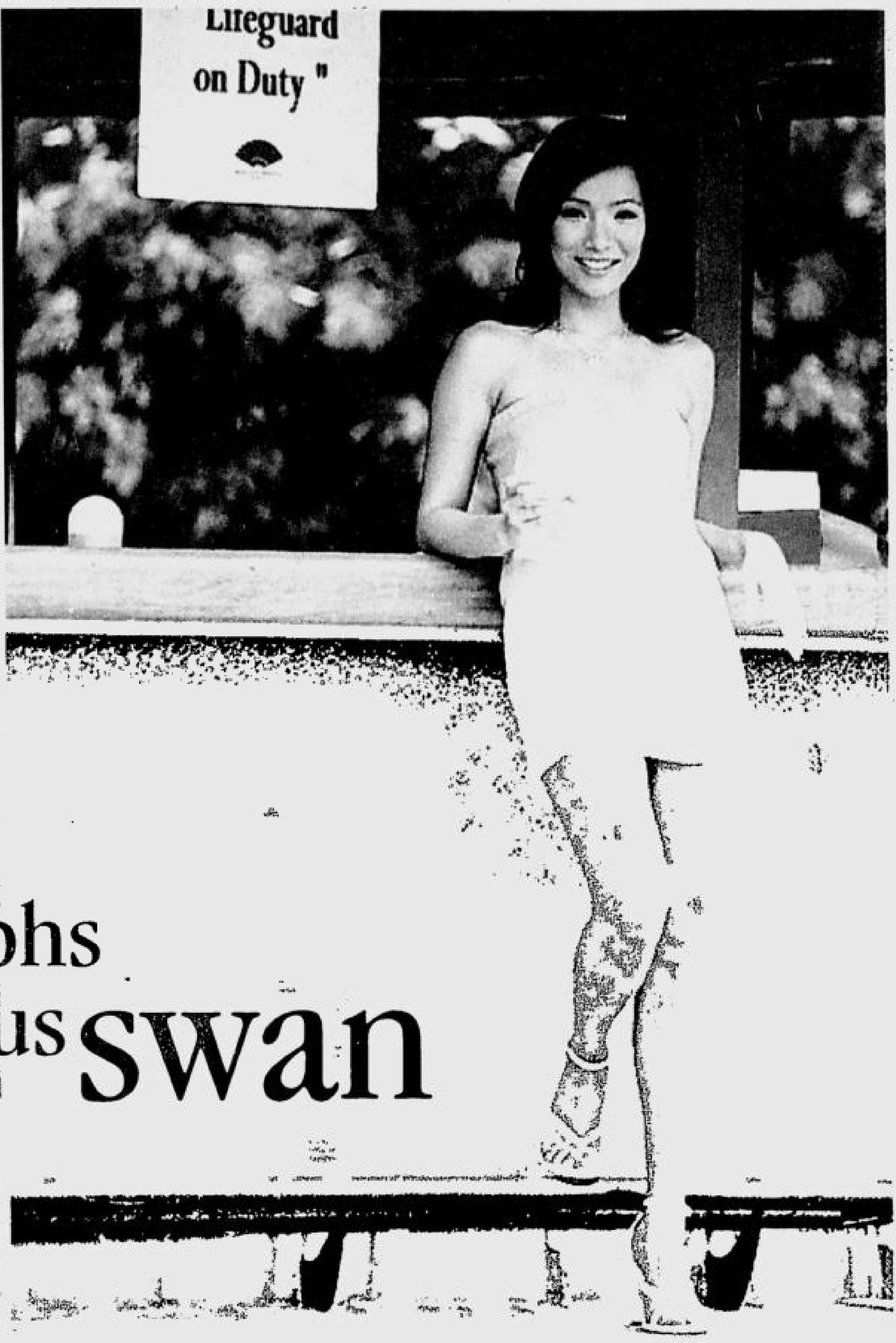


BARE ESSENTIALS. Pia slips into a variation of the peasant blouse from Paperdolls and a pair of denim pants from Freeway.

A not-so-ugly duckling morphs into a glamorous swan



ANGEL ON DUTY. Pia wears a tube top in turquoise and a white miniskirt accented with eyelets from Wink.

Pia goes for clothes with classic and tapered lines that hug the body without restraining her movements

From page G1

Imelda-like

"I love shoes!" declares Pia, who, at 5'7", easily towers over many men, especially if she slips into those 3-inch heels. "I'd rather splurge on shoes than on clothes. I always make it a point to buy several pairs of my favorite signature brands when I go abroad."

Pia is equally cautious in her choice of jewelry. She finds precious stones set in yellow gold too flashy. Rather, she is partial to necklaces, bracelets and big, flat rings done in silver and white gold. And, oh, let's not forget her love affair with sporty and fancy watches.

"I'm partial to men's watches because my wrist looks too big for those dainty ladies' pieces," she says.

Aside from her regular trips to the hairdresser, Pia's beauty regimen is limited to thrice-a-week workouts at the gym. You won't catch her sitting on a dermatologist's chair. Not after what she has been through. "I had a facial once," she says, "and I felt like killing the dermatologist with her every prick."

Rather than commit murder, Pia began searching for less painful ways to keep her skin clear. Shunning makeup, of course, was an option, but not when one's work entails facing the cameras every day. Her search ended when she hit the treadmill. Regular exercise, she swears, is one of the best ways to flush out dirt that could later lead to facial impurities.

Sexier image

Pia admittedly wears more than her fair share of revealing clothes these days because of her work. Perhaps in their desire to perk up sleepy televiewers, network executives want her to project a sexy image on TV. That's fine by her.

"I'd like to think that ABS-CBN is investing on my skills as a host," she qualifies. "If it were purely a battle of appearances then forget it. I wouldn't want to be part of it."

Her decision to join "MTB," she says, is her way of reaching out to more people. Beneath that confident façade, however, is a self-effacing person. "My strength really lies in hosting, not singing or dancing. I don't have the right to impose my substandard talents on other people."

Pia is not just another pretty face with nothing between her ears. Long before she became a household name, she learned the ropes of the business first as a researcher for "The Inside Story." She later became one of its segment producers up until Loren Legarda left the show. She even dabbled in print journalism as the associate editor of the now defunct IT magazine called Link.

ABS-CBN first took notice of Pia when she was hosting a daily morning segment aired on several radio stations. As a "traffic angel," she used to give hourly traffic reports while flying over Metro Manila in a helicopter. If that wasn't gutsy, we don't know what is.

One of Pia's most endearing qualities is probably her ability to relate with all sorts of people and treat them with respect. Agnes, her maid, could probably attest to this, as she was more like a companion to Pia who constantly sought her assistance during this photo shoot.

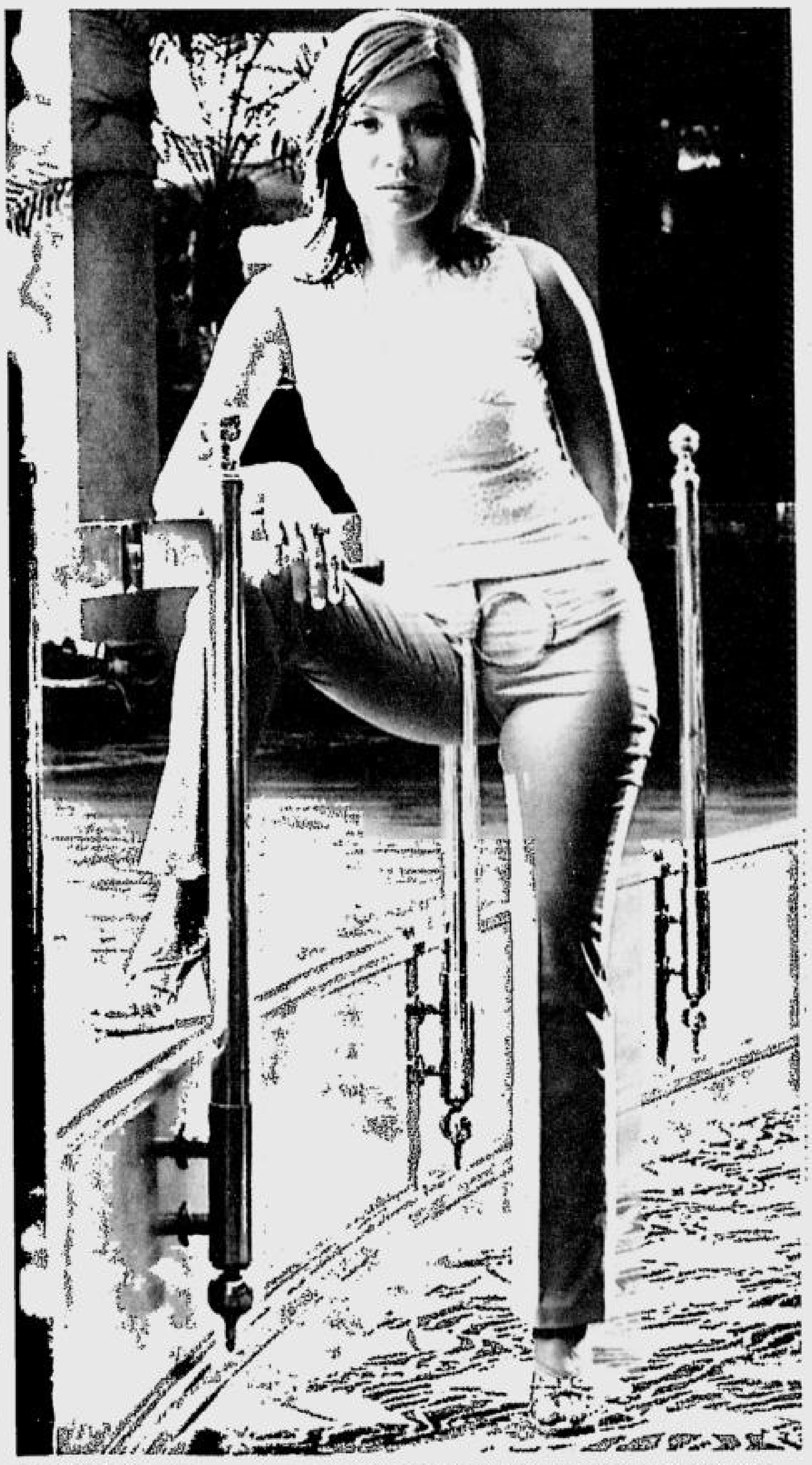
"I've always been a friendly and outgoing person," she says. "So working in front of the cameras wasn't really that difficult for me."

Pia's sunny disposition is disarming. She gamely posed and patiently waited in-between takes as Mike Alquinto, our photographer, prepared everything for the next shoot. Whether in slacker style or designer chic, her best accessories are still her ready smile and gracious nature.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

CLOTHES FROM PAPERDOLLS, WINK BY RHETT EALA AND FREEWAY
LOCATION: MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA'S CLIPPER LOUNGE, TIVOLI GRILL, NOBLE HOUSE ANTIQUES AND THE POOLSIDE
SPECIAL THANKS TO CHARISSE CHUIDIAN AND ELAINE RIBAYA

GOLDEN GIRL. Pia accents the black tube with horizontal lines and stretch cotton pants with fringed belt from Freeway.



LACEY AFFAIR. Pia keeps those arms firm and the troublesome tummy flat through regular visits to the gym. Although she's not a big fan of romantic outfits, she gamely slips into a sleeveless white blouse made of lace from Freeway and a pair of beige cotton pants from Paperdolls. She finishes off the look with a fringed belt from Freeway.

CRYSTAL and fine silver liquor decanters

Italian silver and crystal as perfect wedding gifts

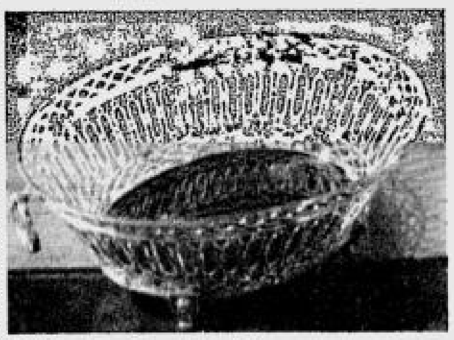
MENTXAKA (pronounced *menchaca*) is a specialty store for people looking for the most tasteful gifts. The owner, Lourdes Menchaca de Tuason, says the store's items cater to clients with discriminating tastes. The core collection consists of Italian silver and crystals that are not found in any department store.

Each stemware, flatware, bowls, plates, vases, chillers, silverware and objet d'art is a collaboration between the designer and the artisan, executed in the highest standards of workmanship. Each piece requires precision, technique, diligence and a sense of proportion and geometry. Some of the silverware feature texture engraving, a delicate patterning of material in which the craftsman handles the surface with exquisite detail.

Mentxaka's items are not for everyone. It is for those who have the soul and sense of refinement that the Italian artisans have worked hard to develop. Bride and groom will surely appreciate each item.

Mentxaka is located at Unit C-1A Karrivin Plaza, Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City, with tel. 843-5816.

SALT and pepper servers



FINE silver bread basket

Trade exhibit ushers in Palawan annual festival

THE PROVINCIAL government of Palawan, with Holiday Inn Manila, is holding a trade exhibit, "Baragatan 2002 sa Holiday Inn," until June 5.

Palawan's various arts and crafts are currently on display at the hotel lobby.

The exhibit ushers in the weeklong celebration of Baragatan 2002, an annual festival in Palawan, June 16 to 23 at the provincial capitol. Theme of this year's celebration is "Palawan: Kasaysayan, Kultura, Likas-Yaman at Pamahalaan sa Agos ng Panahon—1902-2002."

This year's festival is expected to be the biggest so far as it marks the 100th founding anniversary of Palawan's civil government. The province's civil government was established on June 23, 1902.

The weeklong Baragatan 2002 in Puerto Princesa City will showcase Palawan's natural resources, as well as the mix of various cultures, that make the province unique. Through songs, dances, art and crafts, the festival will introduce visitors to the cultures of ethnic Palaweños—the Tagbanua, Batak, Cuyonon, Agutaynon, Cagayanen, the Muslim Molbog—as well as those of emigrants like the Ilonggos Cebuanos, Pampangueños, Batangueños, Warays, Ilocanos and Pangasinenses.

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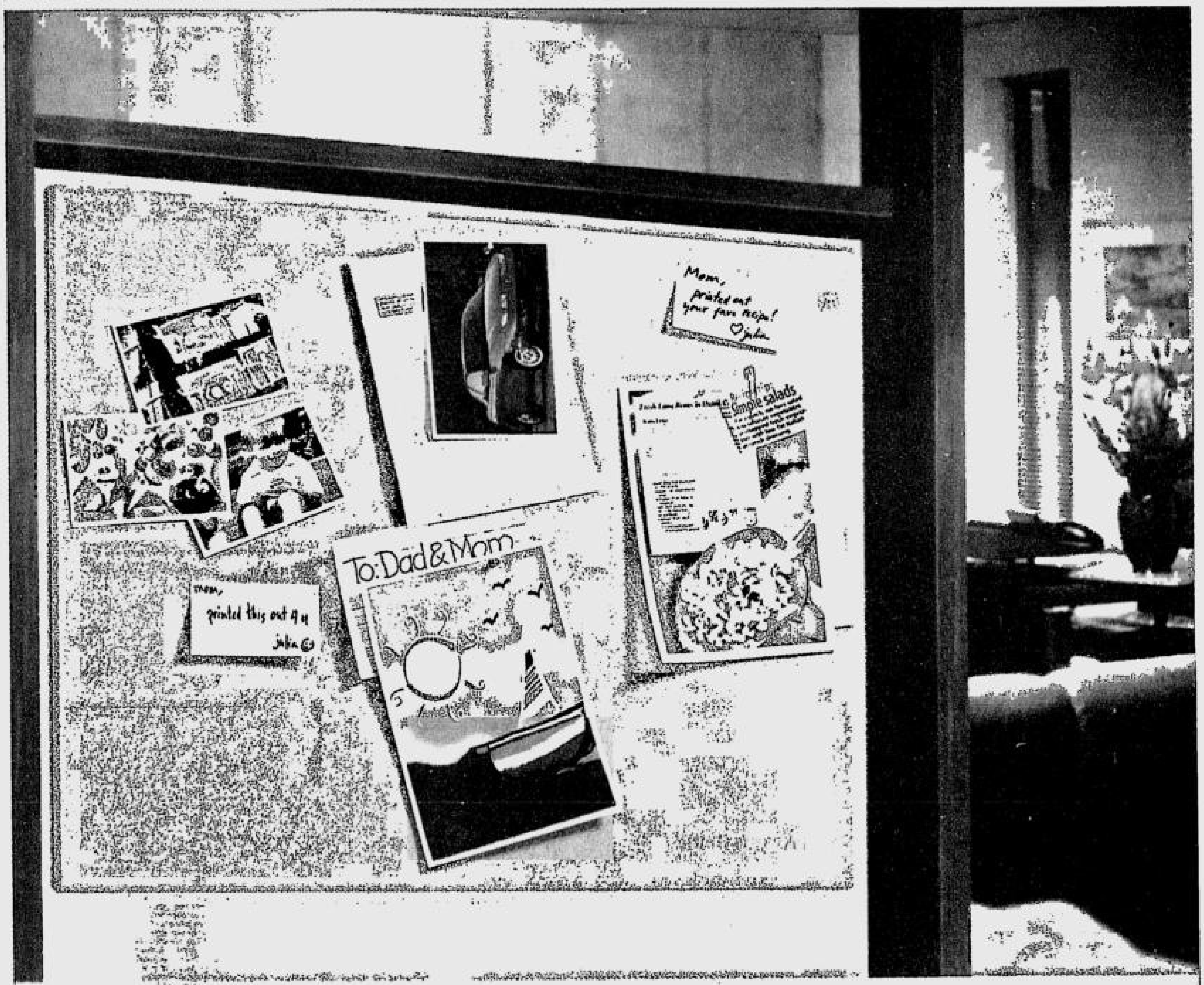

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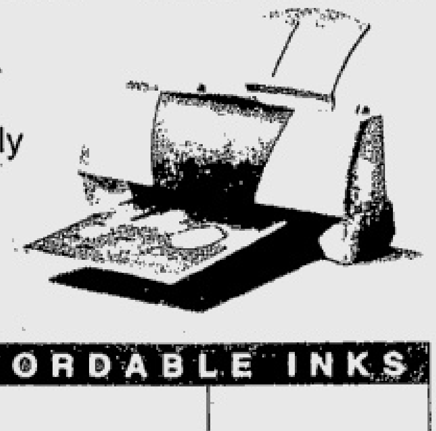

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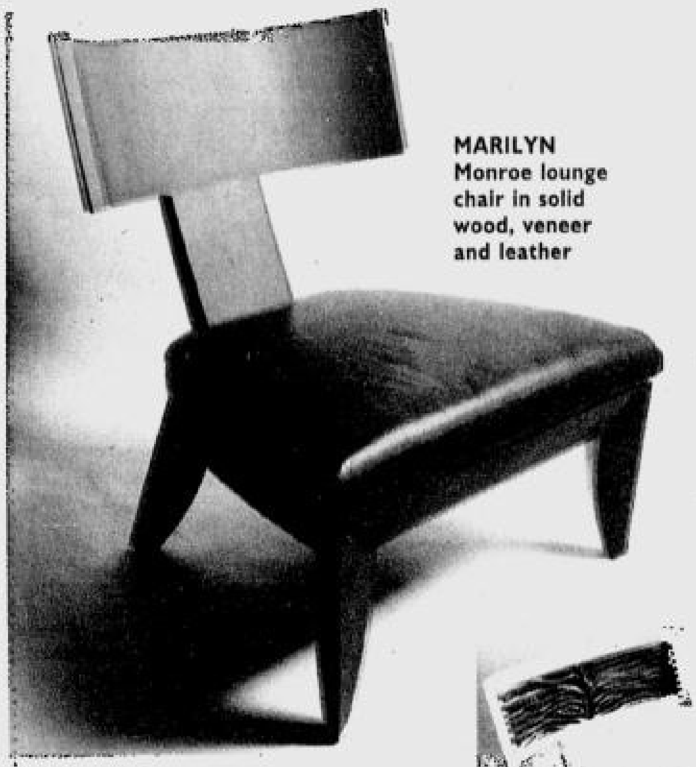
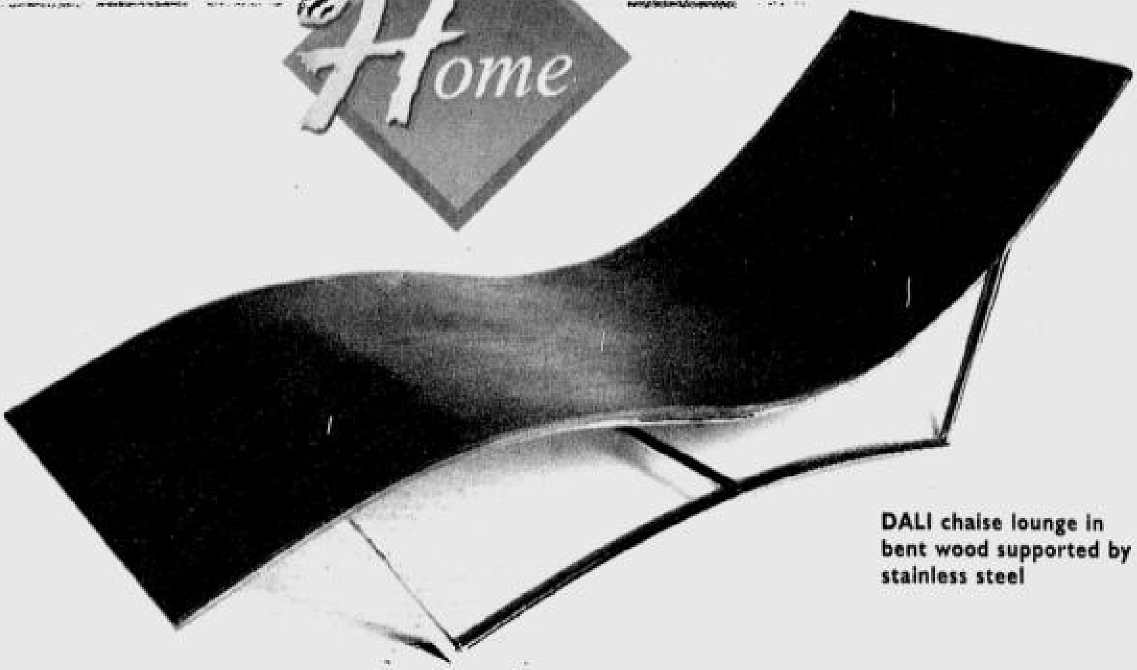
Furniture that's the stuff of legend

These pieces pay design tribute to foreign icons with a Filipino flair



MARILYN Monroe lounge chair in solid wood, veneer and leather

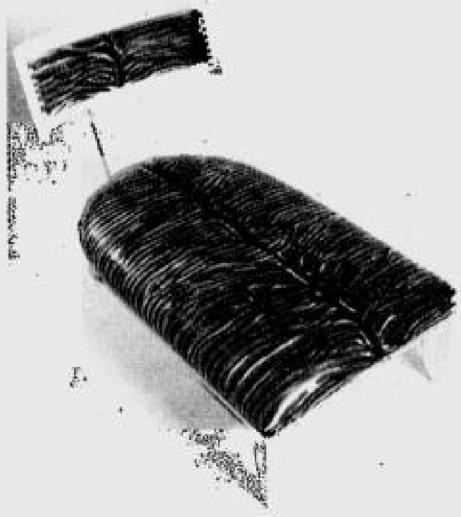


DALI chaise lounge in bent wood supported by stainless steel

By Alex Y. Vergara

ITS FURNITURE pieces may have been inspired mostly by foreign legends, but the design and technology that have gone into each piece are proudly Filipino.

Legends (tel. 752-8334) incorporates kiln-dried hardwood, veneer and leather in most of its furniture pieces that follow clean, simple lines. To allow the materials to stand out, furniture designer Val Padilla has deliberately avoided embellishments in favor of streamlined designs.



MARILYN Monroe chaise lounge in *tangile* and leather in eye-catching zebra print

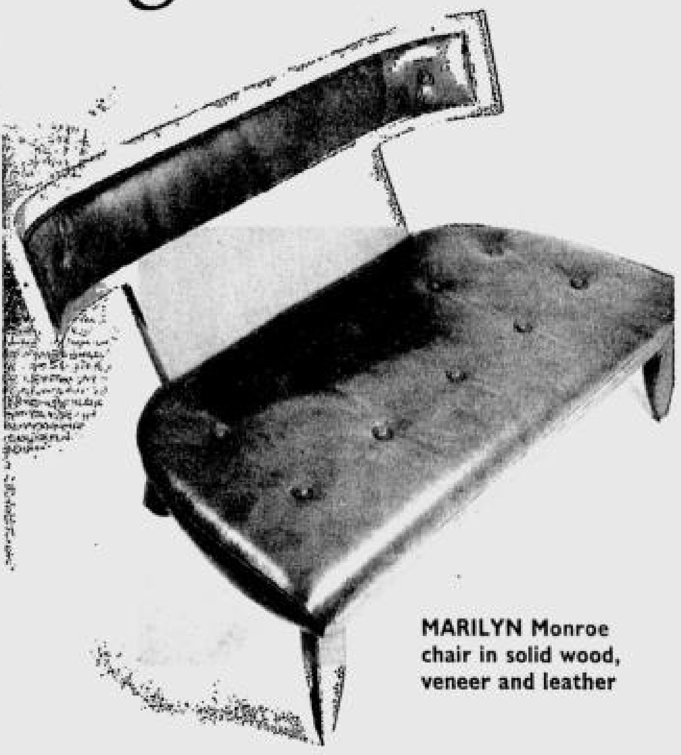
"My designs reflect today's prevailing lifestyles," says Padilla, who honed his skills as a designer in Europe. "The pieces follow classic yet modern lines. More and more people, even those living in exclusive villages, now favor cleaner pieces."

With the exception of the Marilyn Monroe chaise lounge, for instance, majority of the pieces displayed at Legends' Makati showroom on Pasay Road come in solid colors. The chaise lounge is made of solid *tangile* and wrapped in high-grade leather in eye-catching zebra print.

Don't let the animal print scare you. It doesn't bite. On the contrary, the intimidating piece is kind on the back and seems sturdy enough to hold a person twice the size of the voluptuous screen siren.

Earth tones

Elements such as its curvy backrest and miter legs, are also present in the three-seater and lounge chair belonging to the same collection. This time, however, leather seats come in more conservative earth tones.



MARILYN Monroe chair in solid wood, veneer and leather

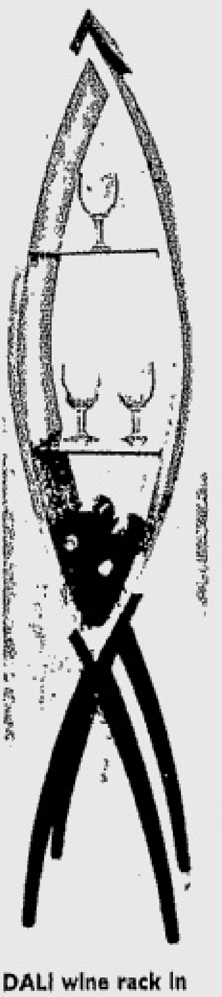
A miter leg, by the way, has three sides compared to a conventional leg with four. The technique requires precision and craftsmanship if the furniture pieces are to stand and carry varying loads through the years.

The Audrey Hepburn collection has a totally different look. In lieu of curvy lines, the pieces are decidedly more elegant like the late actress they have been named after. A cabinet, for instance, is wrapped in expensive padded leather from the sides to the doors.

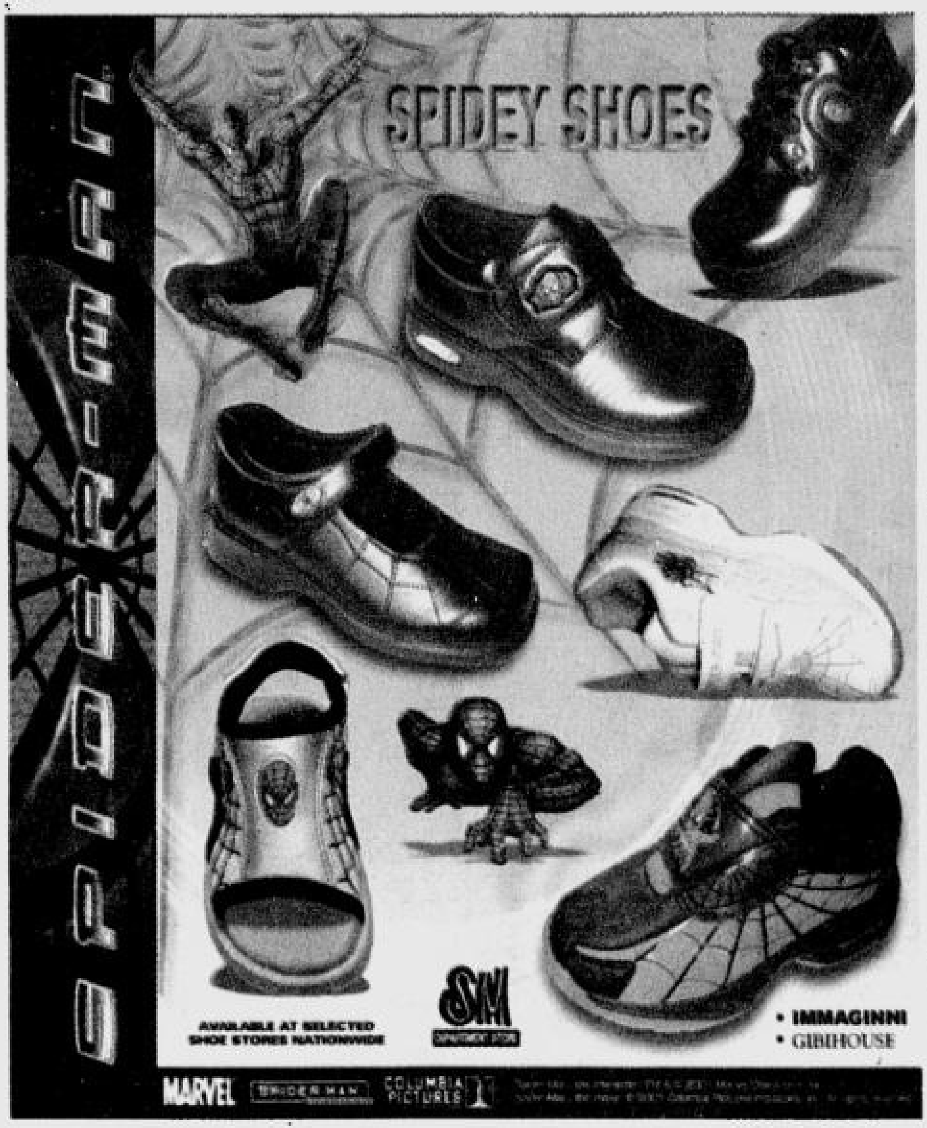
Then there are pieces grouped under such artists as Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso. Padilla pays tribute to Picasso's fondness for geometric lines through a dining table combining wenge and maple.

What about the more surreal Dali-inspired wine rack? It's shaped like a fish and

FURNITURE/ p.G5



DALI wine rack in two-toned wood with glass shelves



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Home LIFESTYLE

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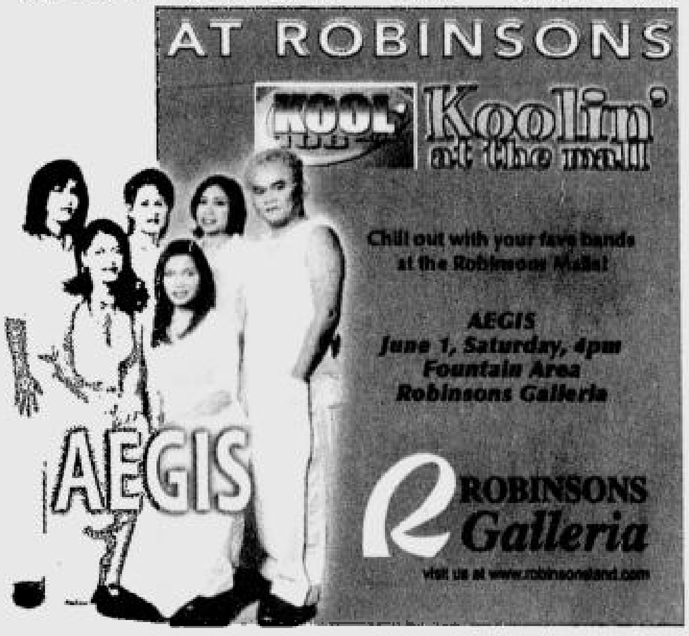
BAMBOO, rattan and sea grass find their way into chairs, accents and furnishings. Large settees and Jim Thompson coverings give a truly tropical home setting. Potted palms and silk orchids in corners of the rooms lend a charm not found in other serviced residences.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Sense of place

Text by Cathy Saldana-Nolido
Photos by Chito Vecina

IN Salcedo Village, at the heart of Makati's business district, is a new enclave of serviced residences. Thoroughly planned from facilities to operations, uniquely detailed and thoughtfully designed from room to room, the Fraser Place consists of 42-story and 31-story structures.

The facilities and amenities are part of the unique Fraser experience. Organized in the common areas are the fully equipped gymnasium, sauna and fitness centers. The outdoor swimming pool and jacuzzi are on the 31st floor. For gatherings, there are outdoor sun terraces, garden clusters and barbecue corners. Restaurants range from formal and casual dining to specialty food and coffee outlets.

Generosity of space is what Fraser Place offers its guests. The rooms are spacious, with wide corridors and more than ample living and dining areas, almost double the sizes of suites in other serviced residences. There are single occupancy suites available but the best are the large rooms that can accommodate the guest who is here on business but has brought his family. Picture this: two-bedroom suites measure 169-223 sq.m., three-bedroom units measure 249-280 sq.m., four-bedroom suites measure 291-322 sq.m., and the Maisonette/ Penthouse suites measure 389-530 sq.m. The busy traveler is assured of comfort and convenience. High ceilings dominate the interiors, with blinds and window dressing to protect against the sun.

The residences feature outstanding amenities—multi-point shower and jacuzzis in the masters' bedrooms, cable TV, audio, VCR and DVD players; two-telephone lines with voice mail system, fully equipped gourmet kitchen and service areas in all units. All residences have maids' rooms, as well as utility and storage rooms. Each of the suites even has a laundry room with a washer and dryer. But daily maid, laundry and dry-cleaning services are also available if required. These are apart from the usual set-up common to serviced residences.

Zen spirit

The rooms beat with the design rhythm of a soothing tropical Zen theme. Decorated and designed by Tema Colleciones Int'l. Pte Ltd. of Singapore, the rooms' colors are warm and inviting, reflecting not only the revered Fraser hospitality, but the embracing warmth of the Filipino culture as well. Some accents and furnishings dominate the space like the huge lacquer bowls and display cabinets in the corners. The interiors evoke tranquility and the guest is entranced immediately by the charms of the East. The suites are resort-like in setting, inviting the guest towards true relaxation. Large-sized couches and settees are richly upholstered in Jim Thompson Thai silk and in finely grained leather. A stylized entertainment armoire has the classic but minimalist lines of the Orient. Inside, a flat-screen 29-inch TV set is matched with audio and video equipment.

The uncluttered look is maintained even with the water features and potted plants in various corners. Thoughtful touches include the Ikebana arrangements of silk orchids ranged along console and buffet tables. Guests can also light up aromatic candles in exquisite containers for that distinct mood. Sliding shade panels in textured fabrics filter and gently disperses the tropical sunlight into the spacious rooms. Some suites have sky gardens with potted palms and offering a magnificent view of Fort Bonifacio and beyond. Lighting range from functional to ambient, all within the guest's touch. Chosen artworks by rising Asian artists, reinforcing the tropical feel, hang on some of the walls.

SENSE/ p.H2

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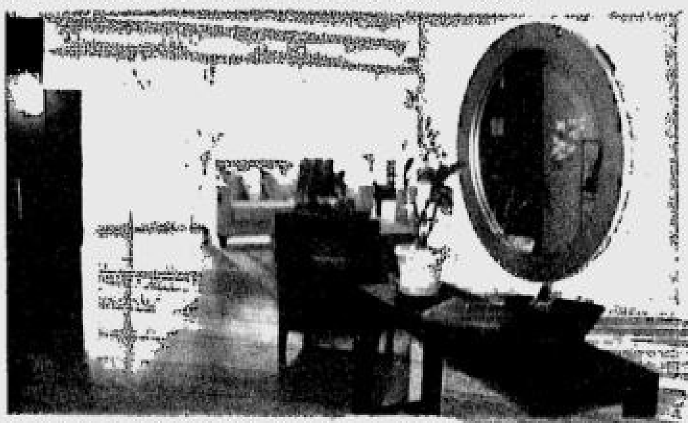
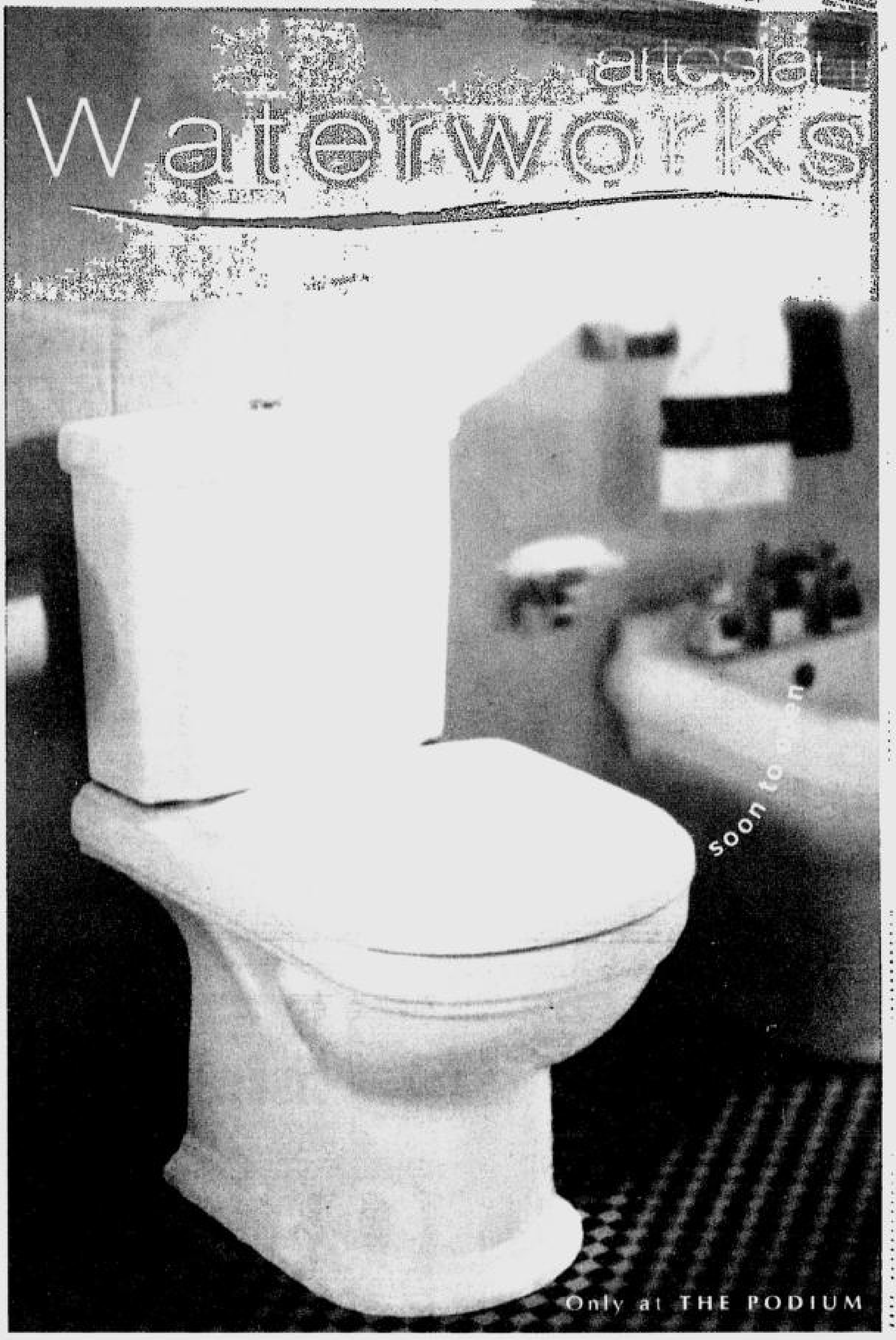
THE DINING table, lush with the grain of Asian hardwood, is richly laid with the textures of china, stoneware, selected flatware, fabrics and lacquer bowls. Overhead lamps complete the drama of dining.



A CIRCULAR mirror above a console table hangs by the foyer of this bedroom suite. Water features in bamboo sit beside an arrangement of orchids. Large windows are draped with shades, curtains and panels of fabric to filter sunlight.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Serviced residences make their guests 'spoiled in a fashion beyond that which they are accustomed to'

THE entertainment cabinet highlights the natural grains of Asian hardwood such as Lokinai. Oriental themes are reflected in the lacquer bowls and modern renditions of functional domestic elements. The audio system is housed together with the VCR, DVD and a flat screen TV set.

Sense of place

From page H1

While the nuances of the tropical Zen concept permeate the suites, the best of what the western world has to offer are masterfully tucked into each room for comfort, quality and convenience. Thus, the bathrooms boast of Villeroy and Boch fixtures, with Hansgrohe's multi-point shower systems. Simmons beds lend excellent support for the back assuring restful slumber. Custom-designed French crockery and flatware complement Oriental dining amenities.

Regular shuttles bring guests to Rockwell, Greenbelt and Glorietta Malls for shopping. Shuttle services also bring guests to specific corporate destinations. Of course, guests can always avail of the limousine service.

Fraser Place may be within the busy corporate and commercial zone but its location gives it peace and privacy. As such, it offers a sanctuary within a place of glass, steel and marble.

Pampered guests

Fraser's core competence is essentially about pampering guests. It takes special pride in caring for guests to the extent of keeping them "spoiled in a fashion beyond that which they are accustomed to." Guests and their families constantly return to bask in this kind of service and to enjoy the hospitality. Programs of activities are also prepared even for

SENSE/ p.H4

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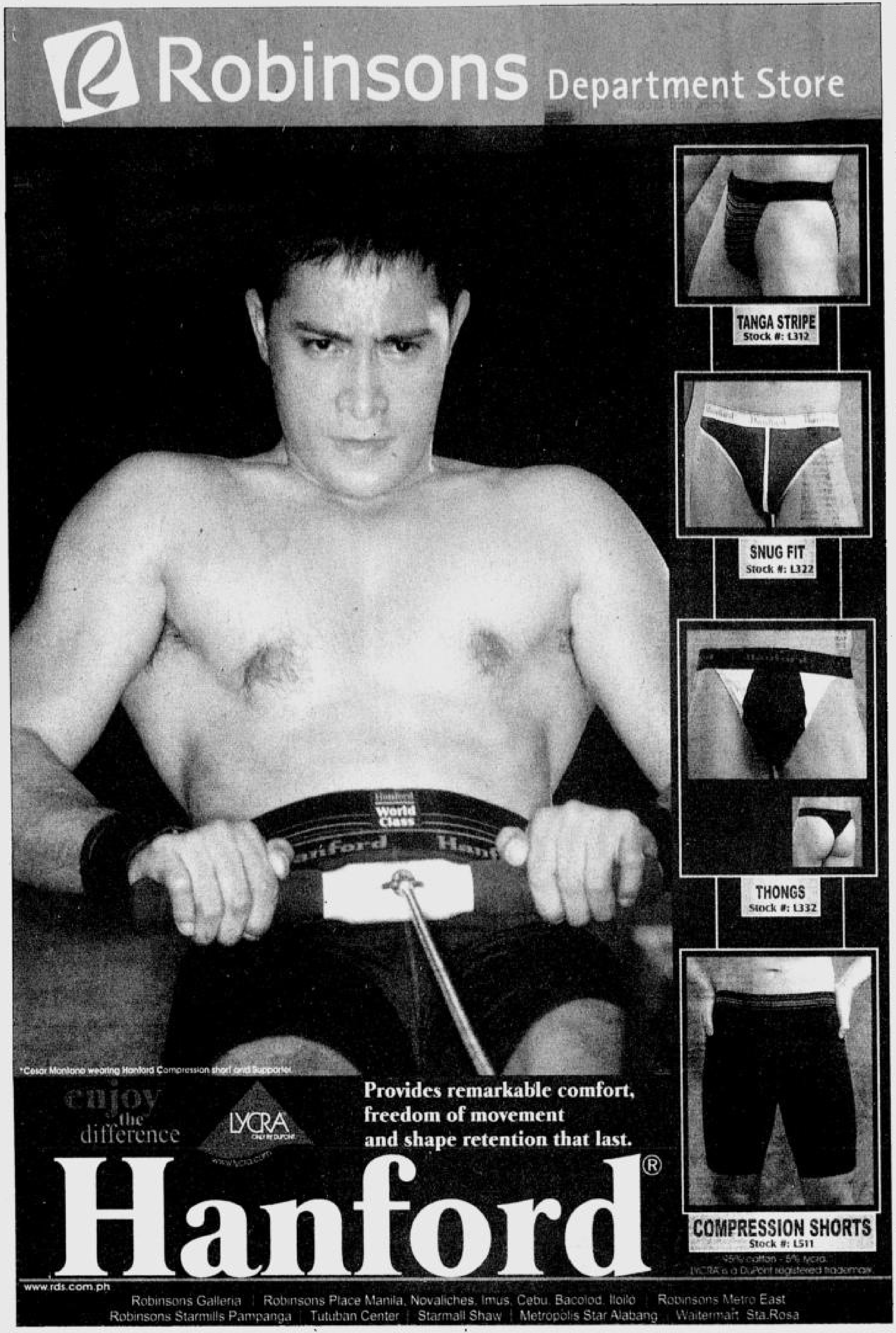

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Philippine Orchid Society wins big in international meeting

THE PHILIPPINE Orchid Society (POS), with the Mindanao Orchid Society and the Department of Agriculture, competed with over 100 entries from 68 countries in the recently concluded World Orchid Conference in Malaysia, winning the gold in its category and the silver in the general championship. The booth was designed by POS president Rolita Spowart and executed by POS members CV Lazaro, Anna Conde, Cora Purificacion, Tess Baldonado, Lee Sanchez, Ina Conejero, Rey and Michelle Bacalangco, Willy and Sally Luenberger. The booth presented an outstanding display of Philippine orchid species and hybrids contributed by orchid enthusiasts from all over the country.

Zeolite enriches soil and protects environment

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

The use of zeolite increased rice yields in Thailand

WE have received some feedback on the use of zeolite since we reported on it last January. People want to know what zeolite is and how it works. We explained it as simply as we could that first time, but perhaps a follow-up is in order.

Zeolite, according to its proponent, Ignacio Sam of Chester Industries Inc., is a nonmetallic mineral that is a source of micronutrients needed by microorganisms in the soil. In its natural form, it is chalky, porous and may be easily scraped, like cheese, for home use.

Mixing zeolite with organic composting material enhances the quality of the waste which, when turned into fertilizer, has a higher impact on agricultural products like sugar, corn, rice and organic vegetables.

Sam is particularly interested in the use of zeolite for agriculture, considering that much of our agricultural soil today has to be revitalized. The fastest way to rehabilitate the soil, he says, is with natural zeolite. Since the mineral is available here, zeolite technology can easily be applied for local requirements.

Tests on rice, corn and sugar cane show that the technology works. One such test, conducted by the Bureau of Soils, Sugar Regulatory Administration and Prosampi (a community-based cooperative in Pili, Camarines Sur), yielded a crop increase of 30-100 percent. Recent experiments at the Isabela State University on rice, corn and vegetables showed a 47 percent increase in crop yield with the use of zeolite.

Another successful use of the mineral was reported by the Pagkain ng Bayan Foundation in Lubao, Pampanga, which combined it with organic waste from Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila, plus recommended amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium (NPK) for an increased yield of corn.

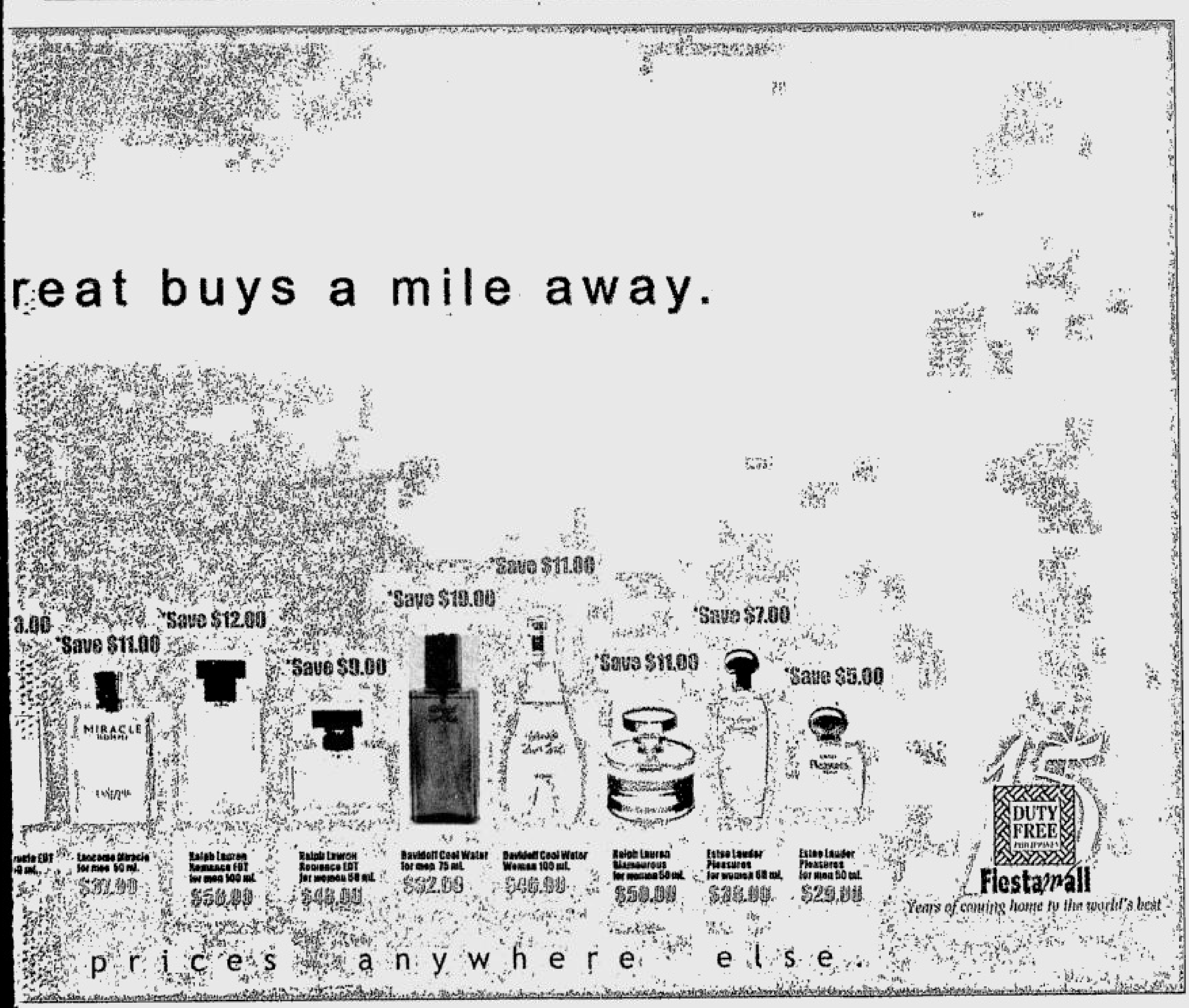
Zeolite samples, blended with organic waste composed of chicken and hog manure and biodegradable waste from wet markets, were submitted to Parichat Boonti, a Thai soil specialist. Boonti and his team conducted experiments on rice with those samples from Nov. 19, 2001 to Feb. 21, 2002, registering a 34-percent increase in crop yield. The Thais were more than happy about this result, considering that their average yield per hectare (and they have an area of 100 hectares) had only been 2.3 tons.

Waste management

Sam suggests that for effective solid waste management, biodegradable materials should be shredded for recycling, adding 5 percent zeolite in the shredding process, as well as a small percentage of urea and enzymes. This method prevents nitrogen and methane from escaping and hastens composting. After shredding, the treated waste is loaded into a rectangular container, measuring 4x5x10 ft, with perforated lining to let air in. Moisture content should be 50-60 percent and the carbon-nitrogen ratio 20:1.

The temperature of this waste material should be monitored, and a canal to collect leachates must be provided. From there, the leachates go to a chamber where zeolite and sand filter the water so it is clean for reuse. The cleaned up material is then ready for the pelleting machine.

Zeolite technology is useful not only for agricultural and environmental purposes, but also for home gardens and pest control. Small amounts of scraped natural zeolite mixed with soil, for instance, will help potted plants grow faster. And similar amounts drizzled on a pet's fur can eradicate fleas and ticks.



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PADDED headrests match the fluffed pillows and throws on poster beds at the private suites. Lounge chairs are upholstered in neutral palettes amid a spray of tropical Zen patterns and themes.

ARTWORK, accents and furnishings create an intimate atmosphere for a home away from home.

Sense of place

From page H2

spouses and children. Nursery, baby-sitting and day care facilities are available, employing well-trained specialists. Guests also have access to a fully-staffed medical and dental clinic, traditional housekeeping, 24-reception and concierge. Majestic may describe Fraser Place itself space but superb sums up the day-to-day services it provides.

To ensure security, an important factor in selecting a home away from home, restricted access and keycard-activated elevators go direct to residences. Staff members are stationed at strategic points while sheltered and well-guarded car parks, lobbies and reception desks are equipped with video, closed circuit TV and round-the-clock security. Smoke detectors, alarms, emergency exits leading to well-ventilated escape routes and specially trained staff complement the systems set in place.

Fraser Place, under general manager Carlo Gomez, brings to Manila the expertise that has built its reputation in London and Singapore. Such expertise will soon be brought to Malaysia and Thailand as well.

To experience Fraser Place, call Lizanne Tan at 818-1818 or 818-3838, or email dos@fraserhospitality.com.ph

Email the author at cnolido@aimonline.org

Throw pillows to fall for

THERE'S a lot of exciting pillow talk going on at Our Home.

Throw pillows—plush plump and definitely polished—are transforming interiors into cozy and comfy spaces. And today, they're more decorative than ever. Here are a few pillow decorating ideas from Our Home:

- Satin or velvet throw pillows in jewel tones create an elegant mood. Arrange these in color multiples for a luxe setting.
- A monochrome set of pillows on your sofa sets off minimalist interiors in style.
- *Rafia*, *sinamay*, and *jute* cushion covers add a homespun touch and are great for country-inspired rooms.
- *Rafia* throw pillows with floral accents are perfect for garden or patio furniture, especially those in wicker.
- Linear and geometric cushions in *sinamay* and *raffia* complement modern interiors.

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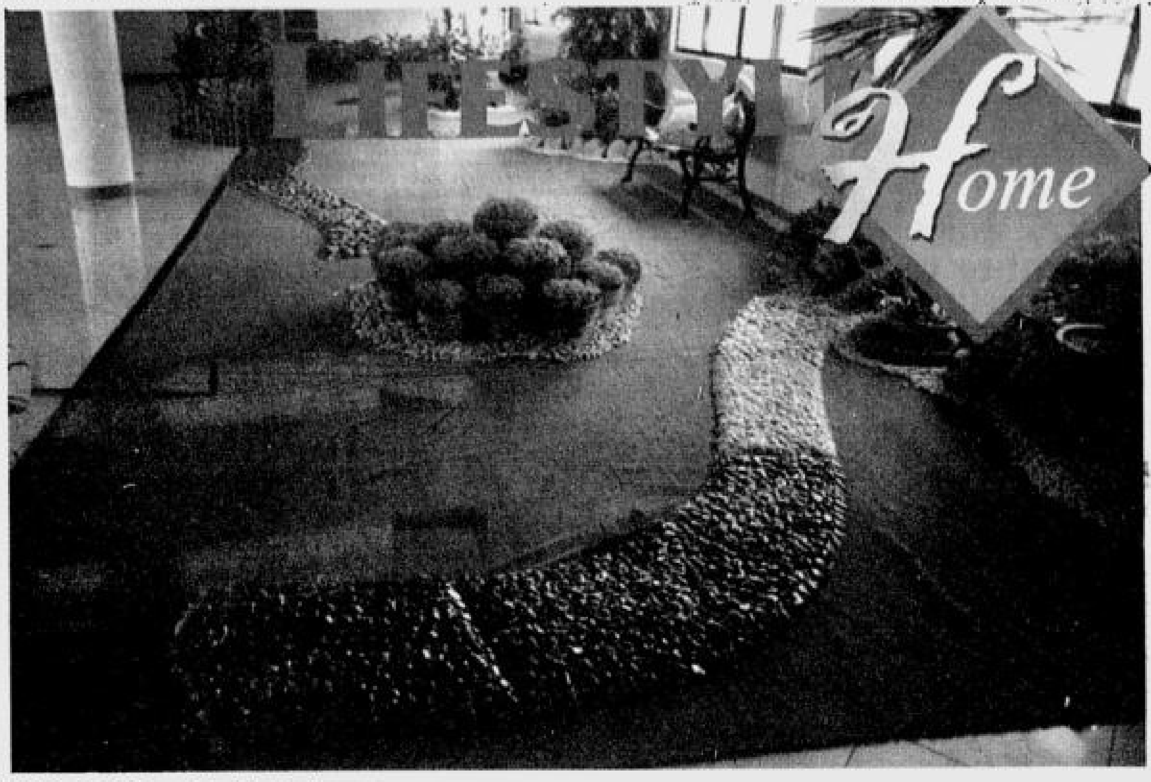

LANDSCAPE model with healing stones

Warehouse club for gardeners, hobbyists opens

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Roger Carpio

TIMES are evidently changing in the world of gardeners. Now there's even a new warehouse club, the first of its kind in the Philippines, where card-holding members can shop for garden supplies, *bodega*-style, with price-discount privileges.

A new concept in local wholesale and retail trade of garden supplies, the warehouse club, Green 2000 Garden Center,

WAREHOUSE/ p.12

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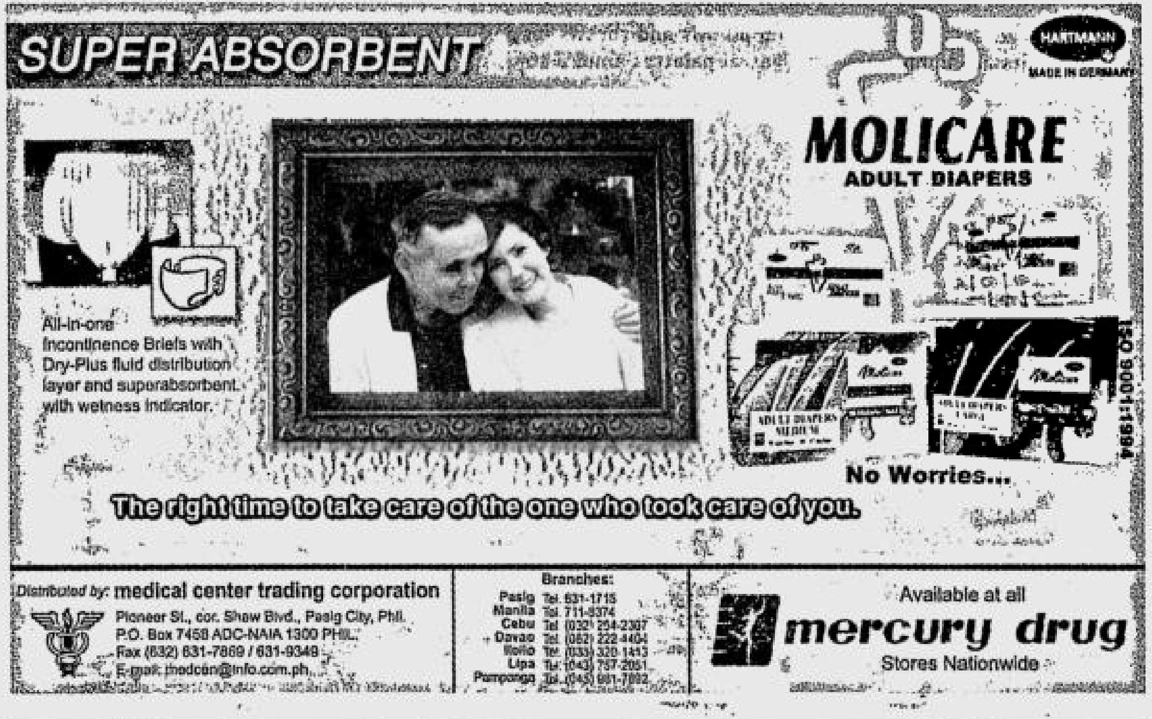
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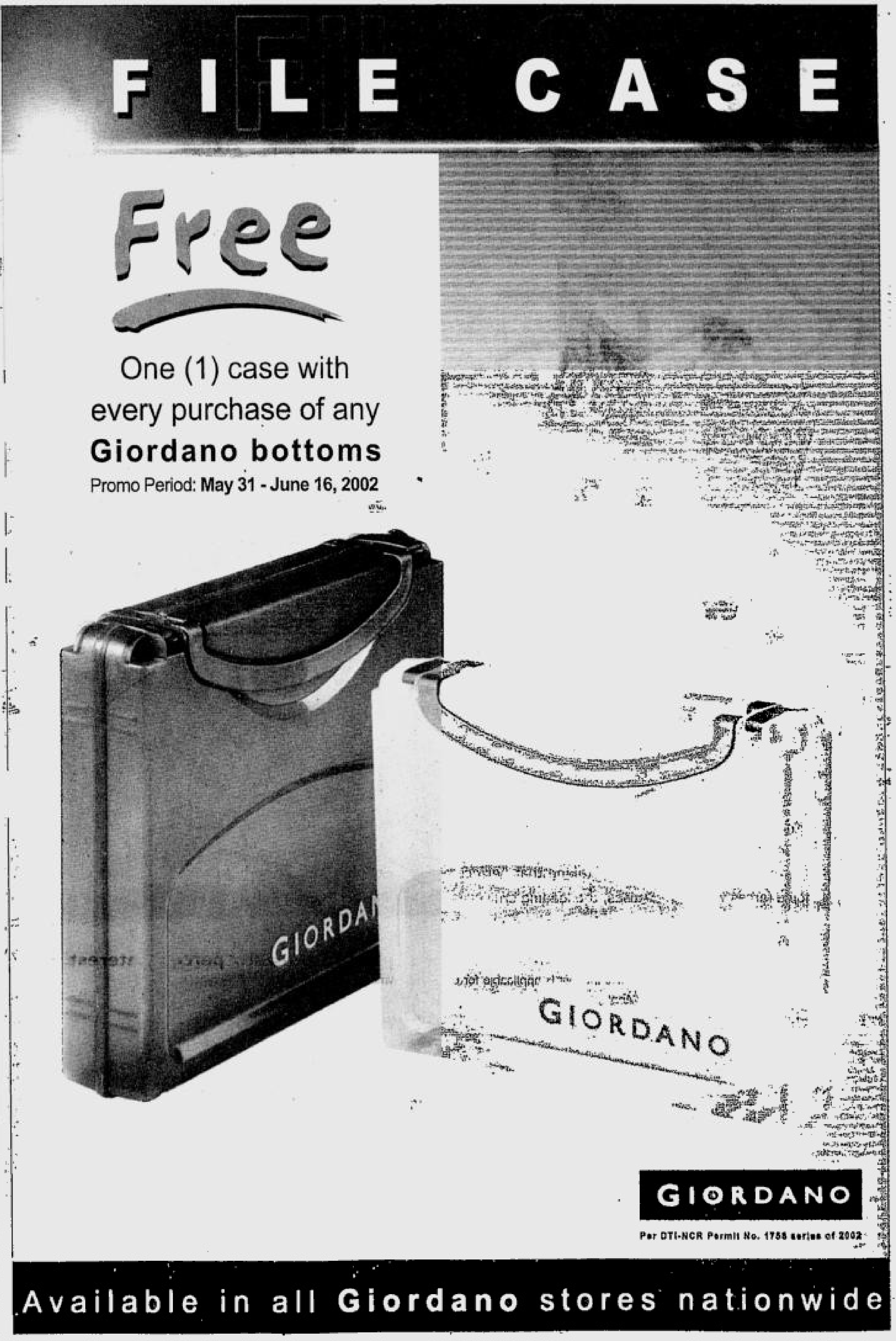
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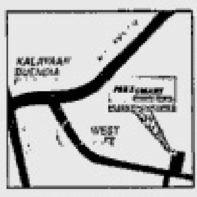

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POTPOURRI delights in odd-shaped bottles

Warehouse club for gardeners, hobbyists opens

From page 11

opened two weeks ago. It's a three-floor complex on AEK Building at 40 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. (between Cordillera and D. Tuazon Streets), QC. Last Saturday, it launched its first mini mart at the Manila Seedling Bank, one of a chain of outlets that will open soon in different sites.

The price club offers a diverse array of merchandise to meet the various needs of gardeners, landscapers, florists, interior decorators and folks crazy about arts and crafts. On the ground floor are items (except live plants) for gardening and landscaping. The second floor offers supplies for do-it-yourself projects. Livelihood seminars, hobbyists workshops and garden club meetings are held on the third floor. Adjacent to the conference hall is the healing-stones garden with its polished stone walks.

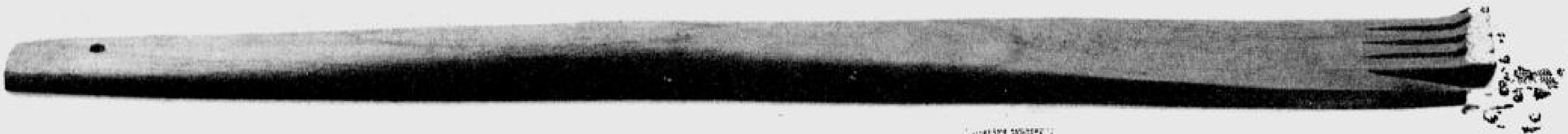
Members' perks

Membership to the club is open both to bulk and single-item buyers who pay the same fee, P500 a year. While walk-in customers can shop, cardholders get privilege discounts of 10-40 percent. The price difference is shown on the unique tags that encode the rates for nonmembers and cardholders.

Cardholders also get a free subscription to

WAREHOUSE/ p.13

ARRAY of dried and dyed flowers



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ART consultant Perla Banaag with owner Adela Ang mix and match potpourri ingredients.

Warehouse club for gardeners, hobbyists opens

From page 12

the club newsletter and are given priority for the club's free seminars and workshops. For the month of June, the weekend seminars will focus on items for Father's Day. The series will start with basic bonsai to be followed by moneymaking ideas.

Walk-in customers get their own share of perks at the store, such as being allowed to use the workshop station where they can mix and match items for arts and crafts projects provided they buy the ingredients/materials at the store.

WAREHOUSE/ p.14

ELECTROLUX GOES RETAIL
From the company that has gained a reputation for being one of the world's leading direct sellers of quality appliances in the 1980s, Electrolux Philippines Inc. has recently reentered the market as a consumer durables firm. Instead of buying from the friendly Electrolux man, consumers can now get Electrolux appliances at leading retail outlets all over the country. At the same time, the company is now the sole manufacturer and marketing arm of White Westinghouse refrigerators. In photo are, from left, Vichai Lorattawout, president of Electrolux Philippines Inc., and Frederick Ramen, president of Electrolux East Asia.

ELECTROLUX Hygenica vacuum cleaners

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

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- Extended sale on regular mall hours of June 1 & 2.
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- SM Makati store hours extended to 9pm on June 1 & 2 with discounts of up to 50% on selected items.

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Rodeo Corned Beef	100g	Before: P 8.50	EVP PRICE P 8.25
Ajinimoto Soy Sauce	500ml	Before: P 13.75	EVP PRICE P 13.00
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Silver Swan Sukang Puti	1Liter	Before: P 16.50	EVP PRICE P 15.50
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Moi Margarine Cholesterol Free	500g	Before: P 56.00	EVP PRICE P 53.25
Pillsbury Hotcake Mix	200g (Bacon/Choco Chips)	Before: P 33.50	EVP PRICE P 32.50
Tim Tam Biscuit	135g	Before: P 36.00	EVP PRICE P 32.50
Laura's Bread Stick Small	100g	Before: P 10.50	EVP PRICE P 10.00
Neo Butter Sandwich	25g	Before: P 28.25	EVP PRICE P 25.50
Cream O Choco	10x30g	Before: P 37.75	EVP PRICE P 34.00
Athena Milk Powder	500g	Before: P 145.50	EVP PRICE P 138.25
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PERMANENT landscape for indoors has dried and artificial plants.

Warehouse club for gardeners, hobbyists opens

From page 13

"We can maintain low prices because we source our merchandise direct from the manufacturer, no middlemen, no wholesalers. Big volume buys, low overhead expenses and simple store operation further allow us to offer very low prices," explained Adela Ang, the woman who conceived the idea of a garden warehouse club.

Recently cured of life-threatening leukemia, Ang swore to do a good turn by providing a venue and ideas for garden therapy and livelihood opportunities. "We want to sell good quality supplies at very affordable prices to hobbyists and commercial people," she said.

How cheap are the items?

As in other warehouse clubs, merchandise at the garden center is sold in bulk and multipacks, but single items are also sold. The main attractions of the shop are low price and diversity of merchandise, including rare items that are difficult to source at the local market.

To get an idea, how much discount we could get as a member, we compared prices of six popular items we usually bought in other garden stores and confirmed that club prizes were indeed 20-40 percent less. Here are the items we got for a steal: P200 for a set of three glazed ceramic bonsai pots; P99.75, 12-piece set of moss sticks, 3 ft long; P49.75, bag of chopped coconut husk; P69.75, bag of coir fiber; P69.75, a bundle of 12 tree fern slabs; P205 and P350, two submersible pumps of different sizes for mini waterfall; P64.75, bag of perlite; and P69.75, bag of green moss.

Wide selection

If the ground floor has a rich trove of gardening and landscaping supplies, the second floor is a virtual paradise, particularly for folks who like to create artistic arrangements, with its arts and crafts supplies. The shelves are stocked with a limitless selection of items for making flower arrangements, potpourri, bottle and dish gardens and décors.

We were fascinated by unusual stuffs that included giant and miniature glass bottles with odd shapes for potpourri (and kitchen herbs, too), miniature bird houses, colorful river stones that supposedly heal, and the botanicals.

Now the botanicals are something to go crazy about. These are dried pickings that include weed flowers, acorns, berries, seeds, pods, grasses, twigs, fruits and leaves. Mostly dyed in flaming colors and sprayed with floral and herbal scents, the botanicals are packed in plastic bags. There are also bundles of imported silk and polyester flowers (peonies, mini roses, long-stemmed roses, liatrice, lilies of the valley), accents, fillers and leaves.(eucalyptus).

Everything one needs to make instant potpourri, including container, is available at the dried flowers and potpourri section. One can use the workshop station to assemble the materials: loose petals, twigs, botanicals, and essential oils (lavender, tea rose, lilac, hyacinth, mint).

Permanent landscape

Also showcased on the second floor is permanent landscaping, a new concept that uses a combination of artificial and dried materials. "We call it eco-friendly landscaping because the materials are durable, recycled and don't use precious water," Ang explained. The pocket garden on the second floor has dried and dyed Bermuda grass along with artificial bamboo, ornamental plants and garden accents.

On call for expert advice and service are the store's in-house landscaper, and an expert who specializes in healing stones, another new idea that sparks interest in gardening.

For more information on membership and schedule of workshops and seminars, call Jenet at 711-9636

MINIATURE birdhouses and dried botanicals for arts and crafts projects

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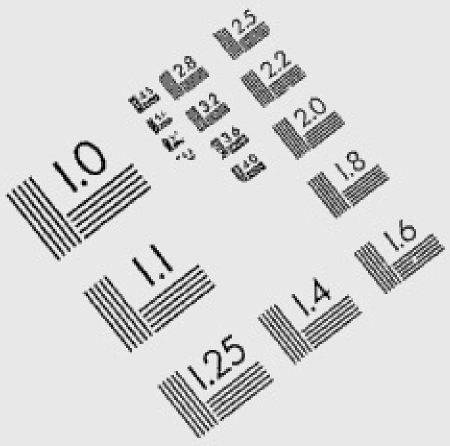
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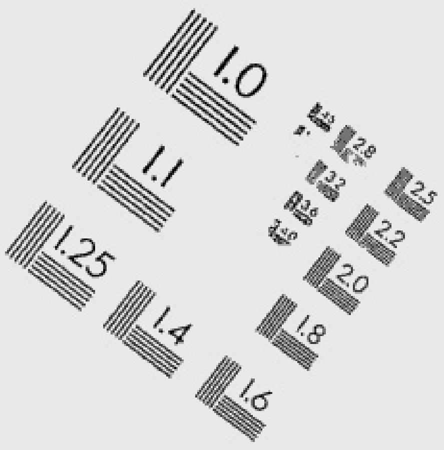
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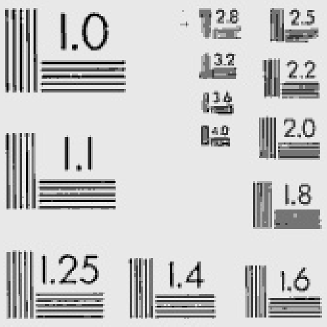
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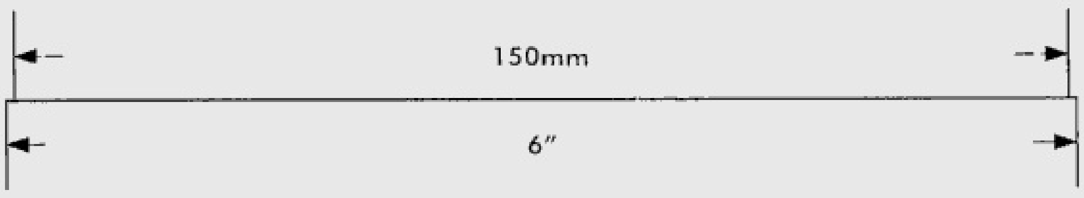

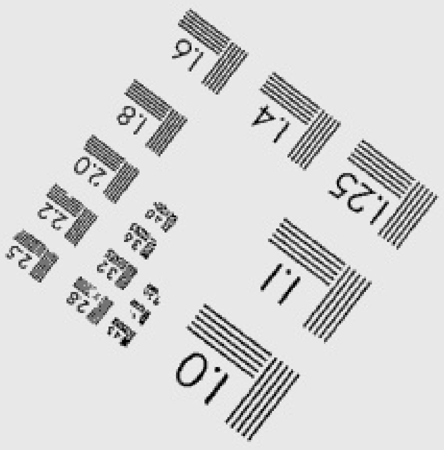
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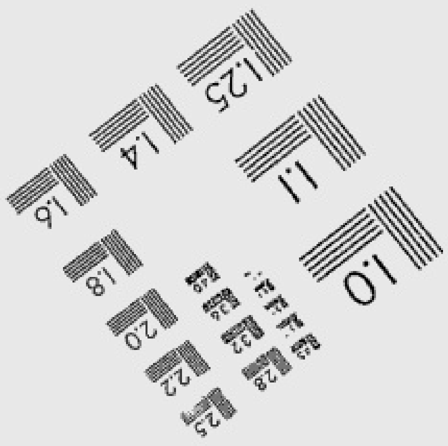
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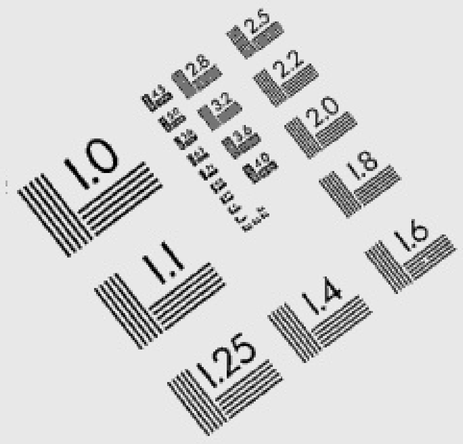
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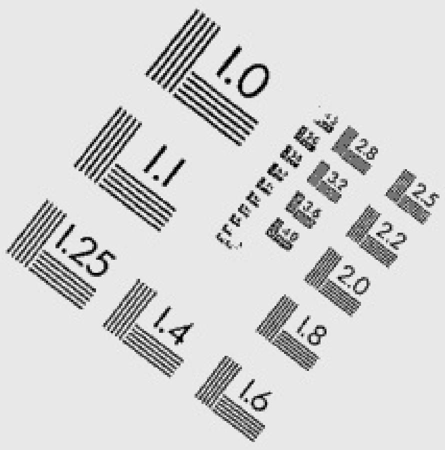
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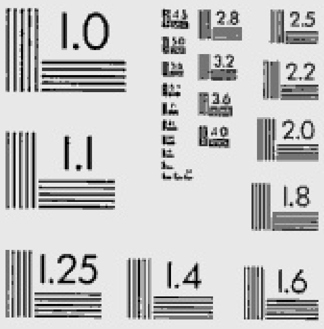
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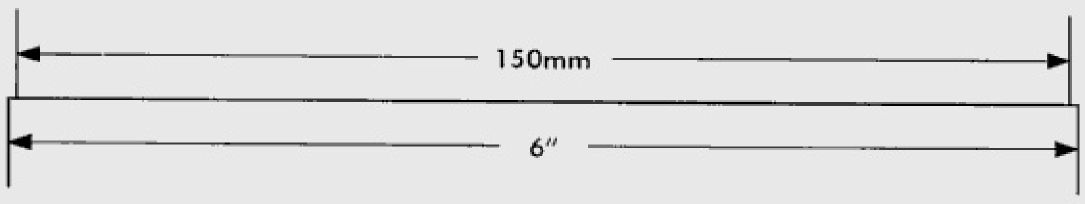

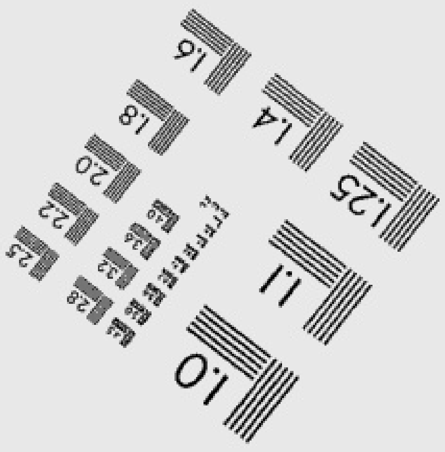
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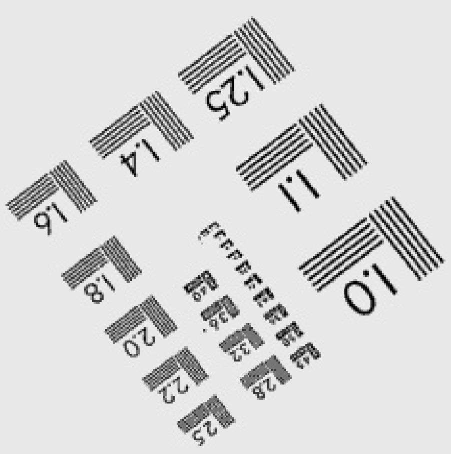
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